

(C) ROBERT H. WELCH, JR. - INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F) dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Welch, a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign, Bufile 62-104401. Welch has written a manuscript entitled "The Politician," which is a vicious attack on the political life and beliefs of President Eisenhower. Welch has not published the manuscript but has had a limited number of copies printed which he has distributed or "loaned" to friends or individuals who he believed would be interested in its contents. The Bureau is in possession of a copy of it. Therefore, if the manuscript is offered to you for reproduction purposes, it will not be necessary to send copies to the Bureau.

Welch also created an organization in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December, 1958, called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world." Chapters of this Society are coming into existence in various parts of the country. The Bureau has received several inquiries concerning the Society and is in possession of a copy of "The Blue Book," which sets forth information on the Society.

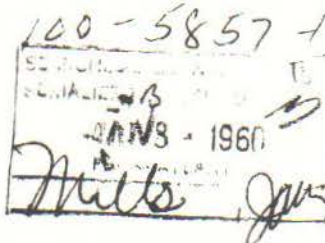
The above is furnished for information purposes. In the event a chapter of The John Birch Society is organized in your territory, the Bureau should be notified promptly and furnished a resume of the chapter's activities. The Bureau is particularly interested in any efforts by subversive elements to take over or use this Society or its chapters. No investigation should be conducted.

1/26/60
SAC LETTER NO. 60-5

Very truly yours,
John Edgar Hoover
Director

- 3 -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-11-94 BY *amw/100/100*



DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

2/11/60

SAC, ATLANTA (62-0)

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
IS

Re SAC letter 60-5

On 1/30/60 [redacted] a representative of the Dupont Chemical Company, 1101 Valencia Drive, Dalton, Georgia, advised SA [redacted] that he had received literature in connection with the John Birch Society which advocates anti-communism and better government. [redacted] advised that he also has "The Blue Book" which is referred to in SAC letter 60-5. b7C

[redacted] advised that there is no chapter of the above society in North Georgia, to the best of his knowledge and that the nearest chapter is located at Sevierville, Tennessee which is [redacted] by [redacted] Cherokee Textile Mill.

A copy of this letter is being designated Knoxville for information purposes.

2 - Bureau
1 - Knoxville (Info)
1 - Atlanta
SAS/cjb
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/1/01 BY 606090BCE/KAP/AR

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100-104401-7-2

KOHLMEYER & CO.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

NEW YORK COTTON EXCHANGE
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JACKSON 2-5761
217 CARONDELET STREET
NEW ORLEANS 12

DALLAS
MACON
LAFAYETTE

REPLY TO:
HOTEL DEMPSEY LOBBY
P.O. BOX 311
MACON, GA.

April 1, 1960

Dear [redacted],
Don't faint. We have not gone crazy or anything like that. We think of you often, but for reasons known to you and [redacted], as well as ourselves, there never seems time to sit down with pen in hand.

First off: We did so enjoy [redacted] letter back in the Winter. Hope all is continuing well with him, and that [redacted] You and [redacted] are withstanding the tortures of fast becoming dam-yankees.

The item about which I take typewriter in hand is as follows:
[redacted] and I have been a part of group interested in civic, state, and national affairs, as well as our foreign policies, for the past two years. Now things are beginning to take a turn we don't like. You being in the branch of our government we thought could shed some factual light upon things, we are asking for your help in doing a little sleuthing for us. We realize that perhaps your end of service might not have the information we are seeking, but that you would be able to direct it to the proper source. Actually we *are* doing this without the knowledge of our friends, for we are concerned.

The Great Decisions 1960 of which we have been a part these past two years, sponsored by, or created by "The Foreign Policy Association" has recently been under fire from a faction of our group which stamps it a Communist-inspired-organization. In combatting this, which they feel is the absolute last word, they have come out with another group known as the "John Birch Society".

Now, [redacted] and I are broadminded...maybe even a little gullible at times, but we are not absolutely stupid and ignorant in our on-the-surface-judgement about things. We are not rabid about anything, and frankly like the idea of living our nice quiet life and rearing our children in what-I-was-brought-up-to-know as the good old American way. This is not so: Now we are being bombarded in the mail by such pieces of literature (if you can call it that) as the "Dan Smoot Report", books and reports by Don Bell, such as "Terrible 1313", and being offered by friends the opportunity of reading such things as "The Life of John Birch" and "The Bluebook of the John Birch Society".

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-04 BY [signature]

100-2257-3
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
APR 1 1960
FBI - ATLANTA
[signature]

Page #2

Under separate cover I am mailing you some things mentioned above in the way of literature. Please look it over, and I must stress, return them as quickly as possible. They belong to parties of our group that will want them returned so they can pass them on to someone else. Add such names as [redacted], Robert Welch, [redacted] and [redacted] to the groups referred to in these [redacted] and see if you can come up with some facts for us. We are most anxious, for naturally we do not want to link ourselves with something so radical it's Fascist, Communist, or otherwise completely subversive. b7C

Please don't think we are crackpots. We're vitally interested in getting the truth, and in this day and age it seems difficult to come by.

Thank you so much for your patience, and we do appreciate any help you might be able to give. [redacted] joins me in every good wish to you [redacted] and the children. b7C

Very truly yours

[redacted]

[redacted]
April 7, 1960

5-5-456
[redacted]
Kohlmeier and Company
Hotel Dempsey Lobby
P. O. Box 211
Macon, Georgia

Dear [redacted]:

In answer to your letter of April 1, 1960, I am indeed sorry to advise you that I am unable to be of assistance to you in furnishing any information regarding the matters you have discussed. As you know, information contained in the files of this Bureau is strictly confidential and by law cannot be divulged to persons unauthorized to receive such information.

b7C

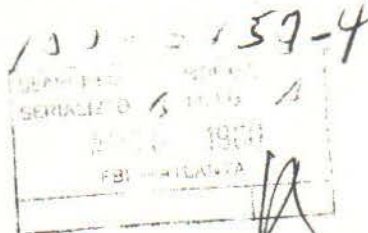
Thank you for your nice letter, and give my regards to the family.

Yours very truly,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 07/14 BY [signature]

1-addressee
1-Atlanta (100-0)
1-Newark (100-0-R)

JWH:fac
(3)



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Wfb
gsh

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (100-0)

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (100-0-R)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS-C

DATE: 4/7/60

Enclosed herewith for the information of the Atlanta Office is a letter which was received by SA [redacted] a Criminal Supervisor in the Newark Division, from one [redacted], of Macon, Georgia.

SA [redacted] states that while attending the University of Georgia, 1946 - 1948, he was acquainted with [redacted]. During this period, [redacted] married [redacted] of Athens, Georgia, who is a close personal friend of SA [redacted] wife, [redacted]. Although SA [redacted] has had no prior correspondence with [redacted] there has been correspondence over the years between [redacted] and SA [redacted] wife, [redacted].

[redacted] is [redacted] Kohlmeier and Company at Macon, Georgia.

Since the enclosed reflects a JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY in Macon, Georgia, this is being supplied for your information. Newark is not advising the Bureau, in accordance with SAC Letters 59-13 dated 3/10/59, and 60-5 dated 1/26/60, in that it is not known if Atlanta has previously advised the Bureau. In addition, Newark would not be able to supply a resume of the Chapter's activities.

b7C

The literature mentioned in the enclosed letter has not been received. If the literature is either "The Politician" or a copy of "The Blue Book," which sets forth information on the society, it will be returned to [redacted] without any reproduction. If it consists of any other material, it will be reproduced and forwarded to Atlanta.

Enclosed also is a copy of SA [redacted] answer to the above-mentioned letter.

2-Atlanta (Encs.-2) REGISTERED MAIL
1-Newark

JWH:fac
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-84 BY 60290ECG/KCJ/SK

100-0-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR - 8 1960	
ATLANTA	

BHA

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (100-0)

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (100-OR-523)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS - C

DATE: 4/12/60

ReNKlet, 4/7/60.

The literature mentioned in relet has been received and consists of:

1. "The Life of John Birch"
2. "The Blue Book" of the John Birch Society
3. "Terrible 1313"
4. "Great Decisions 1960"
5. "The Dan Smoot Report"

[redacted] has requested these be returned to him and are being forwarded to Atlanta for review and return to [redacted]. No reproduction of any of this material has been done at NK since no investigation is anticipated.

b7C

2 - Atlanta (Encs. 5) (RM)
1 - Newark
JVB:MCR
(3)

Re-let to b

*4-22-60
by SA*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/1/84 BY 60309 BCL/MLP

material

100-5857-6

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 13 1960	

Miles
W. End.

Director, FBI (62-104401)

4/29/60

SAC, Atlanta (100-5857)

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/1/04 BY *Am 60498BCJ/KLPJL*

By letter dated 4/7/60, the Newark Division advised that SA [redacted] of that office had received a communication from [redacted], of Macon, Ga., in which [redacted] indicated that a JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY had been organized in Macon, Ga.

On 4/22/60 [redacted] Kohlmeier and Company, Danney Hotel Lobby, Macon, Ga., who resides at [redacted] Macon, Ga., advised that he and his wife, [redacted], had taken part in the "Great Decisions 1960", and had been active in the "Great Decisions 1960" for the past two years, and that he and his wife have been part of group interested in civic, state and national affairs, as well as the foreign policy of this country. He stated that he and his wife had become alarmed at some of their friends in Macon who had become interested in an organization known as the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. He stated he had expressed no desire or sympathy towards this group himself, and when his friends attempted to interest him in this group, he had turned them aside.

b7C

He stated he had learned from his friends that the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY had an organizational meeting at Macon, Ga. on Wednesday, March 30, 1960, and he was asked to go to this meeting, but did not attend. He stated he understands there were about 30 persons present at this organizational meeting which was held at the residence of [redacted] Macon, Ga. He stated that [redacted] friends of his, [redacted] also attended this meeting and it is his belief that C.

2 - Bureau RM
① - Atlanta

JAN:mel
(3)

cm

100-5857-7

AT 100-5857

[redacted] also friends, attended this original meeting. He stated that it is his understanding that [redacted] joined this organization, but that [redacted] did not join. He stated he did know that [redacted] had a copy of "THE LIFE OF JOHN BIRCH" in his possession at one time, but that he did not believe he became interested in this organization.

[redacted] stated that the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY in Macon at this organizational meeting on Wednesday, 3/30/60, had for its speaker [redacted] who was in Macon for the purpose of organizing this society. He stated that [redacted] as far as he could determine was an industrialist who gave of his free time and money to the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. He stated that his friends informed him that [redacted] became very emotional when explaining the purpose of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, becoming emotional to the point where he cried, stating that this disgusted some of his friends at this meeting. He stated that [redacted] referred to Mr. ROBERT WELCH who is the founder of this society as "Our Leader" stating that his friends disapproved of this also. He stated that his friends indicate that they are afraid this organization is a "hate" or "Fascist" group, but stated that they had nothing on which to draw this conclusion at this time.

b7C

[redacted] stated that from the organizational meeting at which [redacted] presided, he understood the persons attending were told that each member would act or do as he was told from the higher-ups, that each person joining this organization had to sign a contract, and the dues were \$24.00 a year for each man, and \$12.00 a year for each woman. He stated the talk which [redacted] gave indicated that the members would

AT 100-5857

[redacted] contacted the Macon Resident Agency on 4/25/60, at which time he advised he had been in contact with his friend, [redacted] over the weekend, and that [redacted] informed him he was disillusioned by the John Birch Society, and that he "was not long for it" stating that he indicated he might attend two or three more meetings, but he was disgusted with the society. He stated he learned from [redacted] that [redacted] (phonetic) [redacted] the S & R Cafe on Second Street, Macon, Ga., was appointed Chairman of the John Birch Society in Macon at the 4/12/60 meeting, stating that this meeting was held at the S & R Cafe as far as he knows, and that the future meetings of the John Birch Society in Macon will be held at the S & R Cafe.

He stated at the 4/4/60 meeting of the John Birch Society, Mrs. BIRCH, the mother of JOHN BIRCH, made a statement, during which she made comments to the effect that she was against the United States' foreign aid program, that she was opposed to the Federal Income Taxes, and made a statement to the effect "down with bureaucracy".

b7C

[redacted] stated he had no additional information concerning this group, but that his friends whom he considered to be substantial citizens in Macon, and very civic minded, had organized or become affiliated with this group, and he was afraid this group might be Fascist in character.

The Macon City Directory reflects that [redacted] wife [redacted] the S & R Family Restaurant in Macon, Ga.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-5857)

DATE: 4/29/60

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS - C'

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/10/04 BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Macon, Ga., [REDACTED] Kohlmeyer and Co., lobby,
Demsey Hotel. Macon, on 4/22/60 advised that
[REDACTED] formerly [REDACTED]
of Macon, Ga., apparently resides in Atlanta,
Ga. and who is independently wealthy, had been
instrumental in having the John Birch Society
formed in Macon, Ga. through [REDACTED]
and his wife. [REDACTED] He stated that
[REDACTED], a wealthy industrialist, who gives
of his free time and money to the John Birch
Society, was present in Macon for the organization
of that society on Wednesday, 3/30/60 and was to
go to the residence of [REDACTED] and
was to hold an organizational meeting of the
John Birch Society in Atlanta, Ga. on Thursday,
3/31/60. He stated that [REDACTED]
is active in the John Birch Society in Atlanta
and based on the information he has been able
to develop from his friends who are associated
with that organization in Macon, he stated that
she was instrumental in forming this organization
in Atlanta.

b7C

He stated he knew of no additional information
concerning the Atlanta organization or chapter
of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, and that he had no
information that this organization was subversive
in nature, or any indication any subversive element
had attempted to influence or infiltrate the
Atlanta society of the John Birch Society.

② - Atlanta

JAM:mel
(2)

100-5857-8

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

AT 100-5857

LEADS

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA, GA.

It is suggested that information be developed concerning the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY Chapter in Atlanta, and a resume of the chapter's activities furnished the Bureau in accordance with SAC Letter No. 60-5C.

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

7/7/60

SAC, SAVANNAH (100-0)

ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.;
"THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY"
INTERNAL SECURITY

Re SAC Letter 60-5, dated 1/26/60.

On 7/7/60 Mrs. ELSA O. KESSEL, aka Mrs. W. E. KESSEL, residence 1207 E. Henry St., Savannah, Ga., an employee of the Southern States Phosphate and Fertilizer Co., Savannah, Ga., appeared in the Savannah Office with the following literature:

(1) Pamphlet entitled "The John Birch Society Inc., Belmont, Massachusetts", bulletin for 6/1/60.

(2) Pamphlet entitled "American Opinion", June, 1960, edition, headed "European Survey", a publication of ROBERT WELCH Inc., Belmont, Mass.

(3) Postcard entitled "Let's End Foreign Aid" with cartoon of President Eisenhower watering "native grass of foreign aid", which postcard is in the form of a petition to Congress to discontinue foreign aid, and which was printed by "American Opinion", Belmont, Mass.

Mrs. KESSEL advised that for some time she had been reading a publication entitled "Georgia Farmer", which is published by TOM ANDERSON, who lives somewhere in Tennessee. She stated that ANDERSON in one of his articles had recommended the John Birch Society and its publications, therefore she, about 3 months ago, paid a \$2.00 fee and since then has received 3 monthly editions of "American Opinion" as well as the pamphlets of the John Birch Society. She stated that these pamphlets have suggestions for recipients in regard to promoting the views of the society and in regard to enlargement of the activities and membership of the society. She stated that the cost for subscription is \$1.00 per month. She advised that she has exhibited the literature to various fellow employees and has tried to invoke their interest in it and in joining the society. She stated that some of her fellow

2 - Bureau
1 - Atlanta (Info)
1 - Savannah

HAB:mfc
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/1/04 BY 60290 BCE/MPK

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 9 1960	
FBI - SAVANNAH	

b7C

SV 100-0
/ubh

employees had suggested that she consult with the FBI before proceeding further. She stated that she had also learned that there is a local chapter of the John Birch Society in Atlanta, Ga., which is active.

Mrs. KESSEL was advised that no comment would be made by the FBI concerning the organization in question. She voluntarily left copies of the 3 pamphlets listed above, which are being maintained in the Savannah files.

A check of the Savannah indices reflects that Mrs. ELSA KESSEL in 1941 was an applicant for a stenographer with the Bureau. At that time it was determined that she was born 8/17/94 of former German citizens who were naturalized. She was formerly a stenographer at the FHA in Savannah, Ga. There is nothing in the Savannah files of a derogatory nature regarding her.

This information is being furnished to you pursuant to instructions set out in referenced letter and a copy of this letter is being furnished to the Atlanta Division for information inasmuch as it has been alleged that an active chapter is in Atlanta.

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

7/20/60

SAC, ATLANTA (100-5857)

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING -
INTERNAL SECURITY

Re Atlanta letter to Bureau, dated 4/29/60.

[redacted]
Macon, Ga., [redacted] Kohlmeier and Co., lobby,
Dunwoody Hotel, Macon, on 4/22/60, advised that

[redacted] of
Macon, Ga., apparently resides in Atlanta, Ga., and
who is independently wealthy, had been instrumental
in having the John Birch Society formed in Macon, Ga.,
through [redacted]

He stated that [redacted], a wealthy industrialist,
who gives of his free time and money to the John Birch
Society, was present in Macon for the organization of
that society on Wednesday, 3/30/60, and was to go to
the residence of [redacted] and was to hold
an organizational meeting of the John Birch Society
in Atlanta, Ga. on Thursday, 3/31/60. He stated that
[redacted] is active in the John Birch Society
in Atlanta and based on the information he has been
able to develop from his friends who are associated
with that organization in Macon, he stated that she
was instrumental in forming this organization in Atlanta.

He stated he knew of no additional information
concerning the Atlanta Organization or chapter
of the John Birch Society, and that he had no
information that this organization was subversive
in nature, or any indication any subversive element
had attempted to influence or infiltrate the Atlanta
society of the John Birch Society.

C.
2 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Atlanta

RMN:sbb
(3)

*Close RM
CJH*

100-5857-10

*John Birch Society
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/2/94 BY [signature]*

AT 100-5857

The current Atlanta City Directory reflects that [redacted] of the Georgia Highway Express, Inc., and resides at [redacted]

A review of Atlanta Office indices discloses nothing derogatory on [redacted]

b7C

On 7/11/60, [redacted] National Chaplain, Daughters of the American Revolution, who resides at [redacted], Atlanta, Ga., advised John Birch Society is a "super-patriot" type group and is on the DAR approved list. She said that she has no knowledge of any subversive influences attempting to infiltrate the John Birch Society.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (100-5857)

DATE: 10/20/60

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING - IS

For record purposes:

On 10/17/60, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], telephonically advised that on 10/16/60 she, while in the company of several high school teachers, had had occasion to casually observe a book having a shiny black cover and entitled, "The John Birch Society," edited by Robert Welch. [REDACTED] was incensed over the fact that apparently this book is being freely circulated even though it starts out as if it is to be critical of Communism, but very soon it turns into a definite commendation of the Communist ideology.

b7C

[REDACTED] does not herself possess one of these books and she had no information as to the actual extent it is being distributed or sold.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-84 BY [REDACTED] 60290 BCE/1007SK

② Atlanta

THD:bdb
(2)

[Handwritten signature]

100-5857-11
[Handwritten initials]

[REDACTED]

1960

[Handwritten initials]

RECORD OF INFORMATION FURNISHED OTHER AGENCIES

Orally 11-16-60 By Telephone _____ Written Communication _____
date date date

Information concerning:

John Birch Society

Information furnished from File, Serial, and Page Number:

100-5857-9, 10

Information furnished was obtained:

☐ during course of Bureau investigation☐ from informants☒ from complainants or other sourcesALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *2-17-94* BY *auk60300e/KSPX*

Information furnished to:

*Captain [redacted]
US Marine Corps, 7th & Peachtree
Atlanta.*

Remarks:

*Captain [redacted] said one of the Reserve officers
in this area was impressed with the Society and
wanted to get authority to have his unit do
some work in the Society.*

b7C

*no statement was made to [redacted]
which could be construed as an endorsement
or recommendation against the organization.*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 1 1960	
FBI - ATLANTA	

Special Agent

ICC 100-5857 ✓

ICC 66-1861

100-5857-12

(D) THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F), dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Robert H. Welch, Jr., a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign. SAC Letter 60-5 (C), dated January 26, 1960, advised that in December, 1958, Welch created an organization called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world."

Recently, a printer in Santa Barbara, California, advised he had received an order from JBS to print 10,000 copies of my poster, "What You Can Do To Fight Communism." The JBS also requested the printer to print an addition on the poster to the effect that this statement was being distributed under the auspices of the JBS. We have advised the printer that the FBI has not given approval for JBS to reproduce the poster nor could the FBI approve of the addition to the poster reflecting its distribution by JBS.

In view of this irresponsible organization's attempt to capitalize on the FBI's prestige, no Bureau publications of any kind are to be made available to JBS or to any of its representatives. You should be alert to the possibility that this group may attempt to reproduce Bureau publications and distribute them giving the impression that the FBI sanctions JBS. Immediately advise the Bureau of any such information coming to your attention. Further, any requests by JBS to reproduce Bureau publications should be turned down.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover

Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/1/04 BY 60290 BCP/HAT/K

3/21/61

SAC LETTER NO. 61-14

- 4 -

100-5857-14

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>as</i>	FILED <i>as</i>
MAR 22 1961	
FBI - ATLANTA	

MASSACHUSETTS-BASED ORGANIZATION John Birch Society Has One Mo

By GEORGE DOSS

The John Birch Society, Massachusetts-based organization of super patriots which is gaining increasing public notice across the country, has one or more units here and apparently has had a part in at least one recent local controversy, The Macon News has learned.

The society, organized and run under the absolute authority of

[This is the first in a series of articles on the John Birch Society.]

Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., is named for a Macon man who was killed in China by Communist guerillas at the end of World War II.

John Birch's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Birch, live on a farm on Riverside Drive and have several other children living here. Mrs. Birch said recently she and her husband were made "life members of the home chapter" of the society by Welch soon after it was

founded at a meeting of his business and industrial associates in Indianapolis, Ind., in December, 1958.

Mrs. Birch and other local members of the society are circumspect if not downright mysterious about the organization, but several of those contacted by The News have made no secret of their membership in the John Birch Society which has become increasingly controversial throughout the nation in recent weeks.

The Los Angeles Times, one of the nation's most conservative Republican newspapers, recently criticized the society's method of fighting "communists in communist fashion" and former Vice President Richard M. Nixon endorsed the editorial stand with a letter to the editor in which he said: "One of the most indelible lessons of human history is that those who adopt the doctrine that the end justifies the means inevitably find the means become the end." M. E. Stephenson, operator of

SEE MACON (GA.) NEWS
DATE 3-22-61
RE:
AT FIVE NO.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/7/04 BY 606040 BCC/RTK

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a local restaurant where some meetings of a local John Birch Society chapter reportedly have been held, told The News that he could give some information about it but that he would not do so except "in written answers to written questions, to be published in full."

Mrs. Logan Lewis, who has sponsored recent anti-Communist advertising, said she is a member of the "home chapter" of the John Birch Society, but she said she knows nothing about the local unit. "I just can't tell you a thing because I don't know," Mrs. Lewis said.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Bowdre freely admitted their association with the group, but Bowdre referred a reporter to Mrs. Birch for information about it. "I would say that she is about the most articulate spokesman that we have, and I think she would be glad to give you whatever information you want," he said.

Several others denied they are members or have any knowledge of the local unit of the society, one saying, "I know what it is, and that's about all." Another said he thought a Time magazine article critical of the John Birch Society in the March 10 issue had been "enlightening to a lot of people."

Mrs. Birch, when asked about the local unit earlier, said, "I'm very sure that Macon is not going to fall behind" other communities in promoting the John Birch Society and its purposes, adding, "That's all I can tell you."

While there was no announcement of participation by the John Birch Society in the recent attack on the Great Decision discussion program and its national sponsor, the Foreign Policy Association, it is known that some of its members were active in that effort.

A booklet attacking the Foreign Policy Association and other material was turned over to the Bibb County grand jury and members of the Birch Society were among

those appearing before the grand jury committee to push the attack. The grand jury in January reported it had received the "allegations" that the Foreign Policy Association was "subversive" and had "many background writers who had Communist front affiliations."

The jury made no determination of the issue, but called for an investigation on the national level. Later an ad was run by group of local citizens attacking newspaper defenses of the Great Decisions program. The booklet used by the attackers was prepared by the Waide M. Slaton American Legion Post of Atlanta and was based largely on the work of Edgar C. Bundy of Wheaton, Ill., an ultra-fundamentalist who has spearheaded attacks on Girl Scout literature and various church groups.

A similar attack on the Great Decisions program has been made by John Birch Society members in Amarillo, Texas, according to a report in The Living Church, an

Episcopal Church magazine. The Amarillo group asked the city commission to bar the discussions from the library, but the commission by a vote of four to one allowed the discussions to be held there.

The report said the John Birch Society has some 18 chapters in Amarillo with 12 to 20 members in each. It quoted the Rev. Edward P. Miller, vicar of St. Peter's Episcopal Church there, as calling the Birch Society "extremist", saying it and the Communists "commit the same error: that of denying freedom to any who would disagree with them . . . To disagree with members of this society is, in the mind of some of them, tantamount to being a Communist. The same is true on the other side: to be in opposition to Communism is to be in line, for liquidation."

"The storm rages about . . . the Church . . . There are those in our community who would destroy the Church in their zeal to rid the community of another menace."

THE MACON (GA.) NEWS

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RE:.....
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LEADER OF SUPER PATRIOTS

Birch Society's Founder Said Eisenhower Was a Communist

By GEORGE DOSS

The founder of the John Birch Society, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., is a native of North Carolina who has questioned the loyalty of many leading Americans and claimed former President Dwight D. Eisenhower was a dedicated Communist.

Welch chose to name his society of super patriots, which he operates with methods borrowed from the Communists themselves and under absolute authoritarian rule, for John M. Birch, a first honor graduate of Mercer University whose parents and other relatives still live in Macon.

Birch, who was killed by Communist guerrillas in China on Aug. 25, 1945, at the end of World War II, was chosen by Welch as the symbol for his society for reasons which will be covered more fully later, including his ultra-funda-

mentalist religious beliefs and the manner of his death.

While Welch's writings to be covered extensively later are most revealing of his beliefs and purposes, a brief biographical sketch is needed to set the background.

Born on a farm in Chowan County, North Carolina, on Dec. 1, 1899, one of five children, he was christened Robert Henry Winborne

North Carolina from Wales in 1720.

Welch was graduated from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Some years ago he sent a \$10 alumni contribution in reply to a letter from a classmate, but made it clear that the donation was made out of friendship for the classmate and that he would not support the university because of what he described as the "frequently deceptive liberalism of Chapel Hill."

After receiving his degree from North Carolina, the Birch Society founder worked a while for the Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co., in North Carolina and in 1917, during World War I, entered the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, leaving there two years later to attend the Harvard Law School. He remained at Harvard until 1921.

In 1921 he married Marian Probert of Akron, Ohio. They have

(Second in a series)

Welch Jr., and called Bob. The family moved to Louisburg, N. C., in 1931. The elder Welch, a farmer, died several years ago and his widow now lives in Louisburg as does a daughter.

The Welch family have through the years been farmers and Baptist ministers, according to an account in the Raleigh News and Observer. They are descended from Miles Welch, who came to eastern

(See BIRCH, Page 3)

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Birch Society's Founder Called Ike a Communist

[Continued from Page 1]

two sons, Robert H. W. Welch III and Hilliard Welch, now reportedly a student at Yale University.

It was while Welch was a student at Harvard that he and his brother founded the James O. Welch Candy Co., in Cambridge, Mass. In 1957 Robert Welch retired from his executive post for what Time magazine has described as "fulltime anti-Communist pamphleteering."

He had begun reading Communist literature during the 1940s and decided that Social Security and the federal income tax laws were part of a Red plot to prepare the United States for Soviet conquest.

Welch in 1953 published a small paperback book, "The Life of John Birch, In the story of One American Boy, the Ordeal of His Age." Earlier he had written two other books, "Road to Salesmanship" in 1951 and "May God Forgive Us," in 1952. He has since written a long, privately published letter, "The Politician," and the "Blue Book" of the John Birch Society.

It was in "The Politician" that Welch wrote of Eisenhower as a Communist. This book now has been withdrawn largely from circulation because it has tended to repel more people than it attracted, according to Time.

The Milwaukee Journal, however, has quoted fairly extensively from

the 303-page book which claims that Eisenhower's brother, Milton, is his superior in the Communist Party, and that a dozen other highly placed government men are either outright Communists or tools of the party.

The late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, according to the newspaper's report on the book, was described as being unknowingly used by the party, while former President Harry S. Truman was "knowingly used." As for Eisenhower, the book on page 268 said:

"In my opinion, the Communists have one of their own actually in the presidency. For this third man, Eisenhower, there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

THE MACON (GA.) NEWS

DATE 3-23-61

RE:

AT FILE NO.

SOCIETY OF SUPER PATRIOTS NAMED FOR MACONITE

Birch Was Brilliant Young Man With Outstanding War Record

By GEORGE DOSS

The John Birch Society is named for a Macon man whose brilliance, devotion to his fundamentalist religious beliefs, and outstanding war record are beyond question.

The death of this young U. S. Army captain in China on Aug. 25, 1945, ten days after the Japanese had agreed to surrender terms, was shrouded in secrecy for several years after World War II and the official Army report never has been released. It has been established, however, that he was killed by Communist guerrillas who also wounded and left for dead a young Chinese lieutenant who lived to tell the story.

The nature of the mission on which Captain Birch had been sent with a small party at the time of his death has never been revealed, but his biographer, Robert H. W. Welch Jr., who also is founder and authoritarian head of the John Birch Society, said both Birch

and his commanding officer considered it of great importance.

Welch says Birch was killed by the Chinese Communists "at the first opportunity after the war because of the powerful resistance he would have been able to inspire

[This is the third in a series of articles on the John Birch Society.]

against them." Birch's mother, Mrs. George S. Birch of Macon, said as long ago as 1950 in an interview with The Macon News that she believes he gave his life in an effort to warn Americans of the danger from Chinese Communists, and that his warning was deliberately kept from the public by government censorship. Mr. and Mrs. Birch traveled about the country for several years after the war in their effort to learn all the facts about their son's death.

Welch said at the organizational meeting of the John Birch Society,

which he said was to be a "monolithic body" which would "operate under completely authoritative control at all levels," in December, 1950, that John Birch "possessed in his own character all of those noble traits and ideals which we should like to see become symbolized by The John Birch Society." [These quotations are from the "Blue Book" of the John Birch Society, Pages 132-133.]

The kind of life of peaceful opportunity and responsibility, which John Birch wanted for his fellow Americans, and for his Chinese friends, and for all men of good will, is exactly the kind of life we should like to see possible everywhere," Welch said.

In his book, "The Life of John Birch," published in 1954, Welch said Birch "was the first, or very nearly the first, casualty in American uniform, in a war still being

[See BIRCH SOCIETY, Page 27]

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Birch Society Was Named For Brilliant Young Man

[Continued from Page 1]

waged against us nine years later; a relentless war of which there is no end in sight. . . . With his death and in his death the battle lines are drawn, in a struggle from which either Communism or Christian-style civilization must emerge with one completely triumphant and the other completely destroyed."

Welch's small paperback book about John Birch gives only the briefest account of his early life, including the years in Macon where he moved with his family in 1934 and was graduated from Mercer University with first honor in 1939. A major portion of the book is devoted to his work as a missionary and later as an Army officer in China during World War II and the account of his death. And more than a third of the 110 pages are devoted to an exposition of Welch's views of the actions of the leaders of the United States during the war and post-war period, most of which he held to be subversive.

John Birch went to China as a missionary sponsored by the World Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship in the summer of 1940 and he never returned home. His knowledge of the Chinese language and his associations with the people in central China through his missionary work enabled him to aid General James H. Doolittle and his flyers to escape after their raid on Japan and made him a valuable intelligence officer later in the Army.

He won the Legion of Merit and numerous other awards and citations from the U. S. and Chinese governments for his outstanding service and his parents believe he was deprived of a posthumous award of the Distinguished Service

Cross, for which they say he was recommended by the 14th Air Force commander under whom he served, only because of the government effort to conceal the facts about his death.

Birch's parents, who say they were made "life members of the home chapter" of the John Birch Society by Welch soon after its formation say they are "heartily in accord" with its purposes and that they are happy that Welch saw fit to name it for their son.

"We think it is one of the greatest Americanist societies and we're proud for it to bear our son's name," Mrs. Birch told The Macon News. "It is really a wonderful organization."

There is much in John Birch's background at Mercer and elsewhere to indicate that he, too, would approve of Welch's activities in his name.

The story of John Birch will be continued Monday in The News, in the fourth article in the series.

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DATE	3-24-61
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CONTROVERSY AT MERCER IN 1939

Birch Was Leader in Charges Of Heresy Against Professors

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth in a series of articles on the John Birch Society, a Massachusetts-based semi-secret organization that is named for a Macon man who was killed by the Chinese communists in 1945.

By GEORGE DOSS

John Birch, as a 20-year-old Mercer University ministerial student, was a leader in bringing charges of "heretical teaching" against faculty members in the last of the Mercer heresy trials in 1939.

And the young Birch, after being graduated magna cum laude from Mercer that same year, went on to study at the Bible Baptist Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, under J. Frank Norris, who died in 1952 after years of feuding with leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and other of the more orthodox Protestant groups.

These facts have been given no emphasis by Robert Welch in his biography of Birch or in his other eulogies of the Macon man for whom he named his monolithic John Birch Society, but they give credence to the proposition, rejected by some of Welch's critics, that the young man for whom the society was named would have approved of its purpose and methods.

It already has been noted that



CAPT. JOHN M. BIRCH

Birch was killed by Communist guerillas in China on Aug. 25, 1945, ten days after the Japanese had agreed to surrender terms in World War II, and that his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Birch of Macon, and Welch believe that he gave his life in an effort to warn Americans of the danger from

Chinese Communists and that his warning was deliberately kept from the public by government censorship.

John Morrison Birch was born on May 28, 1918 in Landaur, India, where his parents, George S. and Ethel Ellis Birch were serving as missionaries. Mr. Birch, who had graduated in agriculture from the University of Georgia, taught in an Indian agricultural college and ran the college dairy, Mrs. Birch, holding a bachelor of science degree from Wooster College in Ohio, tutored English. Both worked in their spare time with Bible classes.

The Birches returned to America when John was 2½ and settled first in Mrs. Birch's home town, Vineland, N. J., where John went through grammar school. In 1930, Mr. Birch, a native of Bibb County, brought his growing family back to Georgia to teach at Mt. Berry School in Rome, where both he and Mrs. Birch had taught before their marriage. The family returned to Birchwood, north of Macon on what is now Riverside Drive, which had been owned by Mr. Birch's father, in 1934.

John was graduated at the head of his class from Gore High School in Chattooga County before he entered Mercer University in 1935. After his graduation from Mercer

(See JOHN BIRCH, Page 2)

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John Birch Was Leader In Heresy Charges

[Continued from Page 1.]

and a year at Norris' seminary in Ft. Worth, where he was a member of the first graduating class. John Birch left in the summer of 1940 for China for missionary service sponsored by the World Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship, another of Norris' enterprises.

Dr. Spright Dowell's "A History of Mercer University," published in 1953, gives an account of the 1939 heresy charges at Mercer, and while this book does not identify John Birch or any of the 13 ministerial students who initiated the charges, persons who were on the scene at the time say that young Birch was the leader of the group and that his actions already were being inspired in large degree by Norris, who had come to Georgia initially as a guest of the late Eugene Talmadge.

It is interesting to note, in view of the semi-secrecy of the John Birch Society and the almost complete secrecy of its local chapter or chapters, that Dr. Dowell describes the group of ministerial students who brought the charges of heresy as a "secret organization" bearing the name "Fellowship Group."

According to the account in his book, Dr. Dowell, then president of Mercer, called a meeting of the executive committee of the Mercer Board of Trustees in his office on March 20, 1939, to receive "a committee of the Macon Baptist Pastors' Union composed of Reverend A. C. Baker, J. S. Winn, and Lewis B. Wright." That group submitted a request signed by 13 Macon ministers for an investigation of charges in the form of affidavits from 13 ministerial students.

The attack was aimed primarily at Dr. Dowell reports, at Dr. John D. Freeman, the 73-year-old head of the Department of Christianity, who in the words of the committee which investigated the charges "for 50 years . . . has been a Baptist preacher and teacher, a man greatly beloved, a leader among the Baptists of the world and one who through the years has been regarded as a conservative in his theology."

Dr. Dowell noted that only three of the complaining students were in any class taught by Dr. Freeman, "while 20 of their classmates resented the attack and voluntarily stated over their own signatures that Dr. Freeman's teaching was 'doctrinally sound, spiritually sane, and genuinely Christian.'"

The executive committee "expressed some surprise that the complaints of the students had not been presented directly to the administration of the university rather than to those on the outside," Dr. Dowell reports. He noted that the ministerial students' "secret organization" to protect the institution from heretical teaching "had called a meeting during a state Baptist Training Union convention in Macon at which 'letters of complaint couched in general terms were read that unfortunately were misleading.' In all, five faculty members were charged with heretical teaching.

A committee of three local lawyers and three ministers, all trustees of Mercer, was named to investigate. They were F. R. Martin, J. C. Estes, T. Hoyt Davis, T. F. Callaway, E. A. Kilgore and O. M. Seigler. Three ministers served as counsel for the complaining students and Dr. Callaway and Judge Davis (now chief judge of U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia) represented the executive committee at the formal hearing, which was limited to the students bringing the charges, the professors involved, witnesses and any ordained ministers.

Conceding that Dr. Freeman had "made some mistakes," the committee nevertheless said, "we are convinced of his personal faith under his statements, writings and the developments in our investigation in the fundamental truths of Christianity and recommend that the charges be dismissed." The full board of trustees unanimously approved the report and closed the controversy. In August, 1939, Dr. Freeman submitted his resignation and retired on a \$100 per month pension from Mercer. He died in 1943.

At least two earlier periods during which heresy charges were made against Mercer faculty members are reported in Dr. Dowell's book—one between 1900 and 1906 when professors "in their alertness to advance in thought and in their spirit of open-mindedness and independent thinking . . . were reported to have entertained views that were modernistic and at variance with the traditions and beliefs of the denomination" and again in 1924 when Mercer "was disturbed over the conflicts between science and religion which grew to alarming proportions over the evolution theory."

That Birch took satisfaction from his campaign against this minister and teacher in the twilight of a long career is obvious from the fact that he listed on an alumni form which he filed at Mercer after graduation as one of his accomplishments as a student his campaign against "modern" teaching by members of the faculty. The methods and the philosophy employed clearly have a similarity to those of the John Birch Society of today.

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That John Birch was a disciple of J. Frank Norris is further evidence of his religious extremism and of his kinship to the Welch philosophy and methodology as expressed in his writings, though Norris was never primarily associated with the anti-Communist cause and Welch has not seen fit even to mention the connection.

To Norris, Dr. Louie D. Newton, long-time pastor of Atlanta's Druid Hills Baptist Church and probably Georgia's best-known Baptist, was a "red". But their major controversy was in 1947, after John

Birch's death and when Newton was president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Alabama-born Norris had a colorful past even before John Birch's time. Ralph Lord Roy, himself a leading Methodist minister, discussed Norris at length in his 1953 book, "Apostles of Discord".

"Many people remember Norris as the 'pistol-packing parson' who shot and killed a political opponent, D. E. Chipps" in 1926, Roy reports. In retrospect, Time magazine summarized the event in this fashion: "In his church study at Ft. Worth in 1926, the Rev. Mr. Norris killed an unarmed political enemy by shooting him four times in the belly and was acquitted on grounds of self-defense." A few years later, according to Roy, another jury acquitted Norris of a charge of burning down his church when he met with resistance to a new building campaign.

Norris also published a weekly newspaper, The Fundamentalist, in which he assailed nearly every important Southern Baptist leader complaining that they were "trying to do to the Baptist people what the Methodist bishops have already done to the Methodist people" and pointing to alleged "modernism" among Southern Baptist leaders, in Southern Baptist theological seminaries and Sunday school literature. His and Birch's attack against the church was similar to that of Welch and J. B. Matthews today, expressed in the literature of the John Birch Society.

Again like Welch, Norris varied from other extremists of his time in spurning attacks on Jews and Catholics. He favored a society based upon white supremacy, as

Welch seems to in less specific terms (blaming all civil rights controversy on Communist plotting), and sharply attacked any Southern Baptist leaders who dared disagree with him on this or any other issue. He also broke with many of the other extremists through his pre-war espousal of the interventionist cause.

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PUBLICATION TELLS OF 'MEAN AND DIRTY' TACTICS

Birch Society Founder Makes No Secret of Extreme Views

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fifth in a series of articles on the John Birch Society, a Massachusetts-based semi-secret organization that is named for a Macon man who was killed by the Chinese communists in 1945.

By GEORGE DOSS

While many local chapters of the John Birch Society operate in secrecy as did John Birch's "Fellowship Group" at Mercer University 22 years ago, Robert Welch has made no secret of his extreme views and sometimes "mean and dirty" tactics.

Only one of the John Birch Society founder's works, a book-length letter called "The Politician" which contained some of his most extreme charges, such as the one that former President Eisenhower is a "dedicated conscious agent of the Communist conspir-

acy," is not now readily available to the public.

The Macon News has obtained only a few excerpts from "The Politician," which Time magazine describes as Welch's "Mein Kampf" and "a masterpiece of invective" now withdrawn from circulation "largely because its judgments on contemporary leaders repelled more people than they attracted."

But The News has a copy of the "Blue Book," the two-day speech which Welch made at the founding of the John Birch Society in Indianapolis, Ind., in December, 1958 and which is now the manual or summary of principles of the Society, as well as a copy of Welch's "The Life of John Birch," published in 1954.

Welch's magazine, American Opinion, monthly bulletins of the

John Birch Society and other literature also are published at the Belmont, Mass., headquarters and are distributed to the public, most of it for a price.

In "The Politician" Welch said that the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt was unknowingly used by the Communists, that former President Truman was knowingly used and, as for President Eisenhower, on page 268, "In my opinion, the Communists have one of their own actually in the presidency. For this third man, Eisenhower, there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

Welch said that Milton Eisenhower, the former President's brother, was his superior in the party, but he said also that "While I, too, think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist and has

[See BIRCH, Page 8.]

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Birch Society's Founder Makes No Secret of His Extreme Views

[Continued from Page 1.]

been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct.

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

In the "Blue Book" Welch covers a number of other leading personalities and organizations and these will be covered in a later article.

The first 75 pages of the "Blue Book" are devoted to an exposition of Welch's view of the state of the world and his philosophy about it. This is followed by a long and detailed chapter on what can be done about it and finally there is a chapter on the John Birch Society as the "body" to accomplish the purposes set out.

Welch makes it clear that he would not hesitate to borrow methods from the Communists themselves. These would include the use of "front" organizations, infiltration of existing groups, the petition method, "the question technique, when skillfully used in this way [in a magazine article consisting entirely of questions directed to the victim of an attack], is mean and dirty." [Page 96.]

"What I am trying to do here, as an introduction to, and part of, our thinking about how to rid America of the collectivist cancer, is simply this," Welch says after outlining the methods and rejecting political leadership as the means to the end. "I want to convince you, as I am convinced, that only dynamic personal leadership offers any chance for us to save either our material or our spiritual inheritance," he says in announcing his intention to supply this leadership.

"Under such leadership we have no chance unless the specific battles are fought as a part of a larger and more lasting movement to restore once again an upward reach to the heart of man. And I have wished to make clear, what you were bound to be assuming already, that with whatever I have in me, of faith, dedication, and energy, I intend to offer that leadership to all who are willing to help me." [Page 126.]

In the final chapter setting up the Society, Welch says, "The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic body. A republican form of government or of organization has many attractions and advantages, under certain favorable conditions. But under less happy circumstances it lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption.

"And democracy, of course, in government or organization, as the Greeks and Romans both found out, and as I believe every man in this room clearly recognizes—

democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

"The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels. The fear of tyrannical oppression of individuals, and other arguments against the authoritative structure in the form of governments, have little bearing on the case of a voluntary association, where the authoritative power can be exercised and enforced only by persuasion.

"And what little validity they do have is outweighed by the advantages of firm and positive direction of the society's energies. Especially for the near future, and for the fight against Communism which is the first great task of the society, it is imperative that all the strength we can muster be subject to smoothly functioning direction from the top.

"As I have said before, no collection of debating societies is ever going to stop the Communist conspiracy from taking us over, and I have no intention of adding another frustrated group to their number. We mean business every step of the way." [Page 150.]

THE MASON (CA.) NEWS

DATE 3-28-61

RE: John Birch Society

AT FILE NO.

STOPPING THE COMMUNISTS IS IMPORTANT, BUT ...

Founder of Birch Society Would Reverse U. S. Political, Economic, Social Trends

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the sixth in a series of articles on the John Birch Society, a Massachusetts-based semi-secret organization that is named for a Macon man who was killed by the Chinese Communists in 1945.

By GEORGE DOSS

"Stopping the Communists is the most urgently important task before us," says the founder of the John Birch Society, but he makes it clear that he thinks a reversal of American political, economic and social trends is a more vital long-term goal.

Robert Welch, in the "Blue Book" of the Birch Society, refers to "the whole new deal (sic) march toward state socialism" which he says "has been carried through and advanced to its present stage by a determined minority." But he traces the trouble further back, to Woodrow Wilson.

When Woodrow Wilson, cajoled and guided even then by the collectivists of Europe, took us into the first World War, while solemnly swearing that he would never do so, he did much more than end America's great period of happy and wholesome independence of Europe," the retired Massachusetts candy manufacturer writes.

"He put his healthy young country in the same house, and for a while in the same bed, with this parent who was already yielding to the collectivist cancer. We never got out of that house again. We were once more put back even in the same bed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, also while lying in his teeth about his intentions, and we have never been able to get out of that bed since."

This has gone on he says, "until now there is a tremendous question whether even if we did not have the Communist conspirators deliberately helping to spread the virus for their own purposes, we could recover from just the natural demagogue-fed spread of that virus when it is already so far advanced."

Welch's solution is the formation of the John Birch Society in

which he has been able to attract a number of widely known ultra conservatives. Through January of this year, after a little more than two years of organizing, the Society had moved into 34 states and one California member estimated it might have 100,000 members by the end of this year. Welch's goal is a million members.

Dues are \$24 per year for men and \$12 for women, with life memberships \$1,000 for either sex. Appeals for contributions are made in most of the mailings from the Belmont, Mass., headquarters. There is no public accounting either of money or membership.

Welch said in the "Blue Book" he would draw no salary, although he had given up all other responsibilities and most of his income to devote fulltime to the work of the John Birch Society. There are 28 fulltime employees in the headquarters and 35 salaried persons working around the country as area coordinators of local chapters.

Welch's views of current leaders and information on his principal supporters will be covered in later articles, but it is interesting here to note briefly his view of history, leaning heavily on the theory of Oswald Spengler in "The Decline of the West," although he says "a lot of its direct effectiveness was spoiled by the almost nauseating displays of erudition in which the book abounds."

In this connection, Welch quotes and disparages the late Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes in one sentence as having called Spengler's work "A marvelous humbug of a book," which description actually reveals more about that eternal sophomore, Holmes, than it does about the ostentatious scholar, Spengler.

The "international socialists," according to Welch, then "made one grand and lasting effort to have Spengler discredited by being overshadowed. They took a meretricious hack named Arnold J. Toynbee, who just by the intrinsic evidence of his own pages is one of the worst charlatans that ever lived; they had Toynbee interpret and rewrite history in such fashion as specifically to supplant Spengler's cyclic theory of cultures with Toynbee's half-baked nonsense; and then they . . . gave Toynbee such favorable publicity and such a terrific build-up as no other historian . . . has ever enjoyed."

"The whole essence of our purpose," Welch says, "can be summarized in the objective expressed by five words: Less government and more responsibility."

The form of government, he says, is not so important as the quality, and neither form nor quality is as important as quantity.

Stressing that he "does not condone dishonesty in the slightest degree," Welch said, "Yet I had rather have for America, and I am convinced America would be better off with, a government of three hundred thousand officials and agents, every single one of them a thief, than a government of three million agents with every single one of them an honest, honorable, public servant."

He says the New Deal "completely stupefied the original virtues of the American Government."

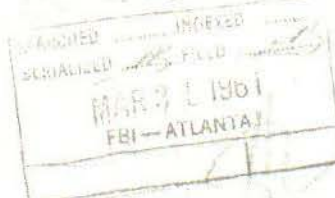
THE MAcon (GA.) NEWS

DATE 3-28-61

RE: John Birch Society

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"Government is always and inevitably an enemy of individual freedom," Welch says. And again he turns to Woodrow Wilson, under whose administration the anti-trust laws and other reforms were initiated, to prove his point: "It seems rather strange that it was Woodrow Wilson, who more than any other one man started this nation on its present road towards totalitarianism, who also said that the history of human liberty is a history of limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it. But Wilson could have boasted, as did Charles II of England, that he said only wise things even though he did only foolish ones."

Only through a "monolithic body" operating "under completely authoritative control at all levels" like the John Birch Society can the job be done," Welch argues. "We are going to cut through the red tape and the parliamentary briar patch and road blocks of confused purpose with direct authority at every turn. . . . Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out before they build up any splintering following of their own inside the society."

One of the most interesting chapters of the "Blue Book" is that dealing with the methods Welch advocates to fight Communists. "If I were the 'man on the white horse' on our side in this war, which is still political and educational rather than military. . . . If I had this kind of realistic force with which to fight the Communists, here are some of the things I would do," he begins.

He suggests establishing "reading rooms, somewhat similar to the Christian Science reading rooms" for display of selected literature. Then he would build up his own magazine, American Opinion, and support such publications as the National Review, which he said should be in every college library in the United States and "if possible in every fraternity house," the Dan Smoot Report, and Human Events. At the same time he would support such radio commentators as Fulton Lewis Jr. and Clarence Manion, and get groups together to hear such broadcasts, "inviting to those groups the uninformed or mildly interested who might be made active workers in the cause."

"The masses," Welch says, "are still instinctively with us in opposition to communism," though "how much longer this will be so, in the continued current course of events, it is hard to say. But at the present time it is far more important for us to try to reverse the direction of the molding of the opinions of men who read and think and study and are themselves opinion-molders."

"We would institute the organized planning and control to make full and effective coordinated use of the powerful letter-writing weapon that lies so readily at hand."

"The Communists boast that they can now land fifty thousand individually written letters in Washington, on either side of any subject, within 72 hours. Actually that is not too startling an accomplishment. We could make it look like peanuts. . . . There would be a continuous overwhelming flood of letters, not just to legislators or the executive departments in Washington, but to newspaper editors, television and radio sponsors, educators, lecturers, state legislators and politicians, foundation heads and everybody else whose opinions, actions, and decisions count for anything in the ultimate total actions and decisions."

"We would organize fronts—little fronts, big fronts, temporary fronts, permanent fronts, all kinds of fronts. One of the greatest weaknesses and mistakes on the conservative side has been that almost all of the organizations, real ones or just letterhead outfits, have been put together for general purposes. The Communists have been far smarter."

As examples of effective organizations, Welch lists the Committee of One Million, "devoted specifically to the job of keeping Red China out of the United Nations," adding that "We have some smaller fronts, such as Orfit—an organization for repeal of the income tax."

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"On our side we are surfeited with organizations" and "some of them have done a lot of good," but "they will never stop the Communists. . . and they are not examples of the use of the front technique. . . The front business, like a lot of techniques the Communists use, can be made to cut both ways. . . We can stop letting the Communists have the whole effective use of this weapon practically by default, and what's more, we can use the noise and turmoil to help to wake up a lot of people. . ."

"A part of this same operation," Welch says, "is the gathering of petitions. . . Goodness knows the Communists have proved their subtle value and effectiveness. We ought to outdo the Communists at least two to one at that game."

"Another thing we should do, and one badly needed, would be to start shocking the American People. . . Some really dramatic exposures would be worth a lot. . . Highly placed secret Communists, or at least workers for the Communist cause, is something with which we are absolutely loaded. . . At the time of Pearl Harbor. . . it would have been absolutely fatal to Franklin D. Roosevelt and George Catlett Marshall for the part they had played in bringing on that catastrophe to have become known to the American people. . . For the real facts not only constituted plain unadulterated treason on the part of both Marshall and [Roosevelt], but they would unquestionably have been so regarded at that time by a horrified American public."

"Then we would go to work putting together the huge lists of church clubs, P-TA groups, and others who use. . . speakers, and start making known to them who was available on what subjects. Most of the speakers' bureaus and lecture agencies are not utilized by groups to any great extent, because neither side can afford it. Which leaves the doors wide open for the Communists to send in their men or their friends. It's another game at which we ought to beat them hands down."

"Finally, and probably most important of all these courses of action," Welch says, "we would put our weight into the political scales in this country just as fast and far as we could."

"We are, in fact, willing to draw on all successful human experience in organizational matters," Welch says in a later chapter, "so long as it does not involve any sacrifice of morality in

the means used to achieve an end. This could be avoided because "there are ways of sizing up both individuals and organizations in this battle which comes only with experience, a knowledge of the interlocking pieces and personalities, and a feel for the way the Communists work."

"And while of course I can make mistakes too, I know from the way my opinion of various characters, formed entirely independently, has then proved to coincide with the opinion of J. B. Matthews, time chance to check with him, that I have a fairly sensitive and accurate nose in this area."

"We are not beginning any revolution," Welch concludes, "nor even a counter-revolution, in any technical sense; because while we are opposing a conspiracy, we are not ourselves making use of conspiratorial methods. Yet our determination to overthrow an entrenched tyranny is the very stuff out of which revolutions are made."

"I have tried to establish fundamental and permanent objectives, much broader than the fight against the Communist conspiracy, because I am convinced that these ultimate long-range objectives are more important than the defeat of the Communist conspiracy."

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RE:

AT FIVE NO.

3

LIKE A TARGET

McCarthy Outdone, Solon Says

By United Press International

What is the real nature of this relatively new group on the American political scene?

Political scientists would classify the John Birch Society as ultra-conservative. It is and will remain a subject of controversy, however, over whether its tactics are compatible with American democratic principles as they are most popularly understood.

It is, in itself, an authoritarian society. Founder Robert Welch does not say the United States should have a similarly authoritarian form of government. But he is far from sold on the form we now have. And as for the political concept of a democracy, he regards it as a "weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

By Welch's political standards, Dwight Eisenhower is a Communist, and so are many others in high government places, past and present. These are standards not everyone accepts.

The U.S. Senate on March 8 heard Sen. Milton R. Young (R-ND), declared that Welch's accusations against Eisenhower and others had gone "beyond anything the late Joe McCarthy ever thought of." On the other hand a Senate internal affairs subcommittee has described Welch's society as a "patriotic organization."

And because there is evidence to support the society's claim that it is growing, the controversy around it is also bound to grow in the months ahead.

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Birch Society Probe Eyed In California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI) — The John Birch Society was the target of both the executive and legislative branches of the California government today.

The California attorney general's office was reported to be making an investigation of the society, and one lawmaker testified it "reminds us very much" of the Hitler organization in Germany before World War II.

Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk warned in a speech before the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce that "fanatical groups on the extreme right" must be as closely checked as the Communists, for they are "equally dangerous to democracy."

He gave six tests by which he said people could determine whether an organization advocated an extremist doctrine.

1. Does the organization attack churches and schools with blanket accusations?
 2. Does it attack other traditional American institutions with wild, unsupported charges?
 3. Does it label everyone with whom it disagrees politically as un-American or subversive?
 4. Does it try to rewrite modern history by blaming American statesmen for wars, communism, depression and other world ills?
- Does it resort to crude pressure tactics such as anonymous phone calls and letter-writing?

6. Do the spokesmen of the group appear more interested in the size of their money collections than in the principles they purport to espouse?

"Apply these six tests," he said, "and you will avoid entangling memberships with such groups as the American Nazi Party, the Communists, the Ku Klux Klan, the John Birch Society, the Cinema Education Guild, the Muslims and others of that type."

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GEORGIAN BIRCH HAD NO LINK TO RED PROBE

By United Press International
John Birch had nothing to do with the group which bears his name.

He was a young fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia who served as an intelligence officer in China during World War II and was killed 10 days after V-J Day by Chinese Communists. He was 27 when he died.

Robert Welch never heard of Birch until after his death, but he has researched and written his life story. Welch has memorialized Birch as "probably the first American casualty in that Third World War, between Communists and the ever-shrinking 'Free World,' which is still being waged against us." And when he came to found a Communist-fighting organization, he called it the John Birch Society.

In Birch's name, members of the society are asked to write letters to congressmen and others, operate in "front" organizations and through established community groups such as PTAs and chambers of commerce to push campaigns conceived by Welch as anti-Communist.

These include movements to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, to repeal the income tax law, to rout the social gospel from the churches, to oppose the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, foreign aid, the United Nations and cultural, or any other, exchanges with Russia.

At her farm home near Macon, Ga., Birch's mother, Mrs. George S. Birch, said she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with Welch's organization "and we are proud for it to bear our son's name."

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Birch Society Sparks Controversy

EDITOR'S NOTE: The John Birch Society is a semisecret organization with a noble aim: Fighting communism. But its methods have stirred controversy in many U.S. cities. A UPI special reporting team was assigned to assist Barbara Bundschu, New York staff correspondent, in researching and investigating the organization, its purposes, operations and opposition across the nation.

By **BARBARA BUNDSCHU**
United Press International

Residents of Santa Barbara, Calif., were in for a surprise when they stepped out into the bright and blowy morning of Feb. 28 to pick up their Sunday newspapers. In that quiet and beautiful city of about 60,000, a respected fellow citizen had discovered what he felt was an outrage.

Thomas More Storke, rancher and citrus grower, owner of a newspaper since 1900, briefly by interim appointment a United States senator, regent of the University of California, was taking a stand against the John Birch Society and its founder and leader, Robert Welch of Belmont, Massachusetts.

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WELCH, 61, retired from a candy firm four years ago to devote his life to fighting communism. What bothered editor Storke was the way Welch was fighting it.

In a letter written before he set up the society late in 1958 Welch told friends that President Eisenhower; his brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower; the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, then and now head of the Central Intelligence Agency, were members of the Communist underground.

But the statement about Eisenhower wasn't all Storke had on his mind. In Santa Barbara itself lives a member of the society's 26-man council, Dr. Granville Knight, a physician. Several active chapters of the semi-secret society were studying Communism at private meetings and looking around town for Communists to expose.

"The secret Communist looks and acts just like anybody else, only more so," Welch had instructed them in the society's "Blue Book." He could be anybody you know. In fact, Welch said, one of his prime suspects is "one of the nicest men you ever met. Most of them are."

EXPOSURE of such persons, even through "mean and dirty" techniques, Welch said, is one of the most effective means of shocking the American people awake in time to save themselves from communism. He also advises members to set up front groups, to infiltrate community organizations and to engage in directed letter writing to promote specific campaigns of his ultra-conservative society.

It was to protest what these tactics were doing to Santa Barbara that editor Storke raised his

editorial voice.

"The News-Press condemns the tactics that have brought anonymous telephone calls of denunciation to Santa Barbarans in recent weeks from members of the John Birch Society or their sympathizers," Storke's editorial said.

"The News-Press condemns the pressures on wealthy residents, who fear and abhor communism, to contribute money to an organization whose leader has said that 'for reasons you will understand, there can be no accounting of funds.'"

Articles and editorial comment on the organization have been carried by a number of newspapers and magazines including the Chicago Daily News, the Milwaukee Journal, the Louisville Courier-Journal, the Boston Herald, the Los Angeles Times, the Racine, Wis., Journal-Times, Time magazine and The Nation.

AT ISSUE between the society and many who might otherwise share Welch's conservative political and economic views is his persistent reasoning that everything he personally considers wrong is a Communist plotter.

At issue between the society

and those who condemn it is the tendency of its activities to suppress, if not the right, at least the respectability, of dissent.

This question has split the Supreme Court itself in decisions which have qualified the First Amendment rights of witnesses before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Inhibition of free speech caused by such private organizations as the Birch Society have had no judicial rule. Editor Storke's statement of principles said: "We believe . . . that traitors should be dealt with by the courts, not by vigilante groups."

WELCH is a native Southerner, born in North Carolina Dec. 1, 1899. He was reared in what he now calls "the intellectually restricting bonds of the unusually narrow Southern Baptist fundamentalism." He spent four years at the University of North Carolina, two at the Naval Academy and two at Harvard Law School before going into the candy business. He was for years vice president of the James O. Welch Company, headed by his brother, which has factories in Massachusetts and in Los Angeles.

Welch was interviewed by that

ed Press International and documents of the society were made available to UPI by him.

In his own words—a biographical sketch Welch wrote in the third person for society members—he “has one wife, two sons, a golden retriever dog, and fourteen golf clubs—none of which he understands, but all of which he loves.”

HE IS an affable man who smiles easily and exhibits in his writings a sense of humor, love of poetry and wide knowledge of history and literature.

He was a director of the National Association of Manufacturers for seven years, serving also as a vice president of the organization, and three former presidents of the NAM are or have been on the Birch Society's council.

On Jan. 1, 1957, his biography says, he “gave up most of his business responsibilities—and most of his income—in order to devote practically all of his time and energy to combat the Communist cause.”

The John Birch Society was founded almost two years later,

on Dec. 9, 1958, at Indianapolis, after Welch delivered a two-day speech to 11 men he had invited to hear it. That speech is today the “Blue Book” of the society, the official statement of its aims and methods. It is supplemented by monthly bulletins to members and the magazine “American Opinion,” which Birch founded before the society and of which he is editor.

THE MESSAGE and aim is: “Less government, more responsibility and a better world.”

Welch quite literally wants to repeal the 20th Century. But unlike many who share this desire, either politically or nostalgically, he views its trend toward “collectivism” not simply as a mistake but as a sinister conspiracy to change the economic and political structure of the United States so that this nation can be merged with the Soviet Union without a fight.

“You have only a few more years,” he told his listeners at Indianapolis. “We are living—in such a fool’s paradise as the people of China lived in 20 years ago.”

“The danger is almost entirely internal,” Welch said, “from Communist influences right in our midst and treason right in our government.”

THE IDEA that the nation must mobilize its resources to combat the external danger of Soviet military might and sputnik supremacy is, in Welch’s view, a part of the Communist plot. “In other words, under the guise of fighting communism, we are being stamped into the biggest jump ever towards, and perhaps the final jump right into, socialism and then the Communist camp.”

Welch would repeal virtually all of the social and economic legislation of the last 30 years.

“The greatest enemy of man is, and always has been, government,” he said.

“We are not beginning any revolution, nor even a counter-revolution in any technical sense,” he said. “Yet our determination to overthrow an entrenched tyranny is the very stuff of which revolutions are made.”

BIRCH SOCIETY IN 34 STATES

Ike Branded; Warren

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second dispatch about the semi-secret John Birch Society, an organization that has created controversy across the land because of its methods of fighting Communism. A UPI special reporting team, headed by Barbara Bundschu of the New York bureau, reports today on the society's doctrine, membership and various views on its operations.

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU

United Press International

At the start of 1961 the John Birch Society had organized one to 100 chapters in each of 34 states and the District of Columbia, according to its founder, Robert Welch of Massachusetts.

Still to be organized are Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah and Vermont, Welch says.

"The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic body," Welch said in a blue book of the organization's doctrine.

"A republican form of government or of organization has many attractions and advantages, under certain favorable conditions. But under less happy circumstances it lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption. And democracy, of course, in government or organization, is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud. . .

"THE JOHN Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels. . . no collection of debating societies is ever going to stop the Communist conspiracy."

He hoped for one million dedicated members to fight the forces of evil with "evangelical fervor."

Paul H. Talbert, Los Angeles insurance executive who is one of the society's council members, estimated recently that it might have 100,000 members by the end of 1961, its third year.

Assailed

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Welch said he wanted to raise a million dollars from sources other than dues during the society's first year—and even that amount is an awfully small drop in the bucket, against what either the direct Communist propagandists or the Reutherite labor bosses are spending against us."

THERE IS no public accounting of either money or membership. Dues are \$24 a year for men and \$12 for women; life memberships are \$1,000, either sex. Appeals for additional voluntary contributions accompany virtually all mailings to members. Welch has said he draws no salary. There are 28 full-time employees at headquarters and the society is reported to be the largest single source of revenue for the Belmont, Mass., post office next door.

Another 35 salaried persons work around the country as coordinators of member groups, and an additional 100 persons work full or almost full-time as volunteers.

WELCH frankly has borrowed the Communist technique of setting up "front" groups for specific purposes. He acknowledged that another technique he advocates—the use of loaded questions to smear a suspect he can't prove is a Communist—is "mean and dirty."

Chapters operate at widely different levels of secrecy. In North Dakota, meetings are announced on local radio stations and everybody's welcome.

In Dallas, Tex., a 32-year-old businessman member of the society wouldn't give his own name for publication, however, and explained: "Most of our members in Dallas are little people, just like I am. Most of these folks could not take a sustained smear attack. If it came along, they would probably be thrown out of their jobs. For that reason, the thing has been kept pretty quiet. There are no real millionaires in Dallas in it as far as I know."

He estimated there were 20 chapters in Dallas and said he'd heard there were 100 in Houston. Chapters are generally made up of 20 members.

THE "MOST important activity" of the John Birch Society at the moment is its campaign to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren.

In the view of the society's founder and leader, the supreme court's school decision and all the racial troubles in the South have been brought about by Communists to foment civil war. "Civil Rights" is a Communist slogan, "an exact parallel to the slogan of 'agrarian reform' which they used in China," he has told members.

"There is plenty of evidence that we already have the pot of the Warren impeachment boiling," he said. "What we need now, by adding more fuel and blowing on the fire, is to give that pot a head of steam that will be looked at askance by anybody who might want to sit on the lid..."

CONGRESSMEN, recently made aware of Welch's old accusation that former President Eisenhower was a Communist, are already looking askance at what they describe variously as a "trickle" or a "flood" of "impeach Warren" mail.

Republican Whip Sen. Thomas

2

H. Kuchel of California, who said he had received about 200 such letters since October, described the campaign as "contemptible and vicious."

Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, R-Calif., is listed by the society as a member of its "committee of endorsers." Hiestand said he has been a member of the society for several years.

"It is a society of individualists dedicated to fighting Communism," Hiestand told United Press International. "They make up their own minds. They are violently anti-Communist. That is the one thing we have in common."

Hiestand said "a lot of prominent people have been misled by misinformation" and he is considering putting into the record a "well documented" reply to charges against the organization.

Rep. Gordon Scherer, R-Ohio, a member of the House un-

American activities committee, also listed as an endorser, said he was not a member of the society, but "I look with favor on it."

Members of the society from coast to coast have professed themselves undisturbed by Welch's pre-society charge that President Eisenhower was a Communist.

Spruille Braden, former U. S. ambassador and a member of the society's council, said he didn't agree with the charge but that it in no way led him to question Welch's judgment on other matters.

"He may exaggerate sometimes," Braden said of Welch. "When you're in a barroom brawl, no holds are barred. You don't fight by the Marquis of Queensbury rules."

3

Probing Of Welch Is Sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, R-Calif., asked Thursday for an investigation of the head of the John Birch Society for what Kuchel called "a fantastic and incredible libel" against former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Kuchel said Robert Welch, retired candy manufacturer of Belmont, Mass., who founded the society, should be called before the society, should be called before the Senate Government Operations Committee for attempts to besmirch the character of Eisenhower, Chief Justice Earl Warren and others.

IKE ACCUSED

He said Welch "accuses Dwight Eisenhower of being a card-carrying Communist."

The John Birch Society is an organization with the declared purpose of fighting Communist infiltration. It is named for a missionary killed by the Chinese Communists.

In a story Thursday, the Washington Evening Star said Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, R-Calif., is a member. It quoted him as saying he joined in California "quite a while back," and is sure there are other Congress members affiliated with the society.

Dictatorial?

Hiestand was also quoted as saying he would like to see an investigation of the society by the House Committee on Un-American Activities because he believes this would dispel charges that the society is "a dictatorial Fascist" organization.

Asked about the Star's story, Hiestand told an AP reporter that the story was substantially correct.

Rep. Henry S. Reuss, D-Wis., disclosed he had asked an investigation by the Committee on Un-American Activities. He made public a letter of reply from Chairman Francis E. Walter, D-Pa., saying the committee has received no information indicating that an investigation of the society should, or could, be made by it.

Walter said the committee had received numerous letters regarding the society. Most of them, he said, contain the general complaint the organization is "un-American."

But, Walter said, the specific complaints allege wrongs against individuals "whose recourse would be action in the civil courts."

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DEMOCRATS APPARENTLY ARE BEYOND THE PALE, AND . . .

Welch Believes Not Even the Republicans About the Reversal of American Policy He

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the seventh in a series of articles on the John Birch Society, a Massachusetts-based semi-secret organization that is named for a Macon man who was killed by the Chinese communists in 1945.

By GEORGE DOSS

Robert Welch makes it clear in his "Blue Book" that he set up the John Birch Society because he felt that even the Republican politicians he likes couldn't accomplish the reversal of policy he wants and because existing right-wing groups were too loose and ineffective.

As for Democrats, he apparently considers most of them too far beyond the pale to bother with, but he does discuss, though not by name, President Kennedy, avoiding a charge that he, as Welch claims of Eisenhower, is a Communist, but making it clear he thinks the new president is even worse.

At the time of formation of the John Birch Society in December, 1958, he wrote, "At present we are in the position of trying to defeat a disciplined well-armed expertly-commanded army with a collection of debating societies."

No matter which one of the "anti-Communist or anti-socialist groups you select, the chances are that the good citizens who put it together are friends of mine" and they "almost certainly are dedicated patriots who deserve our gratitude, and our praise," Welch said. "But let's be realistic . . . we've got to offer something that people are willing to die for. And only over long periods of time, and then in rare instances, do you generate and maintain loyalty for an organization that is even in the same league with loyalty for an individual."

He rejects the idea that Americans for Democratic Action, which he says has exercised "terrific influence," is an exception on the other side, saying the ADA, "whether a lot of its members know it or not, is the same as an arm of the Communist Party."

As for doing the job he wants done through a political party, Welch says, "Now there is one thing to which any intelligent patriotic American might as well make up his mind at once. That is that the thorough and painstaking organization and work at the precinct levels, which wins elections, is not going to be done and can't be done by the Republican Party."

"It can be done in one state, under the personal leadership and management of a Barry Goldwater for his own campaign. It might have been done in California by Bill Knowland, if he could have got himself disconnected from his 'modern-Republican' duties as minority leader of the Senate in time, and if he had known what he was up against. But it cannot be done nationally by the present Republican Party, nor by anything that can come out of the present shattered Republican Party in the foreseeable future."

That doesn't mean that the Republicans can't win elections, he says, but "it does mean that, especially if the Republican Party then [in 1960] stands nationally for any Americanist principles whatsoever, it cannot win unless it has strong help and backing from forces outside the straight political organization—such as the Democratic Party has on the other side in Walter Reuther's Committee on Political Education."

He says that not even the Democratic Party, "which, for all of its bitter internal splits, remains a far more disciplined and unified organization for campaign purposes than the Republican Party, can carry out any such precinct activities precisely directed at a national aim."

Welch, who himself ran unsuccessfully for Republican nomination lieutenant governor of Massachusetts some years ago and is a former director and vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers, said until a few months before the 1958 organization of the John Birch Society "I was still giving some thought to starting some quiet but strong non-political organizing for political purposes right in Massachusetts, etc., with a view to either capturing the Republican nomination for the Senate from [Sen. Leverett] Saltonstall in 1960 or running as an Independent as circumstances then indicated." But he rejected the idea as unworkable.

Welch's "Blue Book" reference to Kennedy is contained in his discussion of the "amoral man," first among the Communists and then, " . . . on our own side of the fence, among the millions who either are, or pretend to be, non-Communists, the amoral man, who has no slightest inner concern with right or wrong, is one of the greatest causes of our constant retreat, and one of the greatest dangers to our survival. And he doesn't wear any label."

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Welch Believes Not Even the Republicans Can Bring About the Reversal of American Policy He Advocates

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charge that he,
of Eisenhower,
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At present we
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od citizens who
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said. "But let's
we've got to
that people are
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th loyalty for an

He rejects the idea that Ameri-
cans for Democratic Action, which
he says has exercised "terrific in-
fluence," is an exception on the
other side, saying the ADA,
"whether a lot of its members
know it or not, is the same as an
arm of the Communist Party."

As for doing the job he wants
done through a political party,
Welch says, "Now there is one
thing to which any intelligent pa-
triotic American might as well
make up his mind at once. That
is that the thorough and painstak-
ing organization and work at the
precinct levels, which wins elec-
tions, is not going to be done and
can't be done by the Republican
Party."

"It can be done in one state,
under the personal leadership and
management of a Barry Goldwater
for his own campaign. It might
have been done in California by
Bill Knowland, if he could have
got himself disconnected from his
'modern-Republican' duties as
minority leader of the Senate in
time, and if he had known what
he was up against. But it cannot
be done nationally by the present
Republican Party, nor by anything
that can come out of the present
shattered Republican Party in the
foreseeable future."

That doesn't mean that the Re-
publicans can't win elections, he
says, but "it does mean that, es-
pecially if the Republican Party then
[in 1960] stands nationally for any
Americanist principles whatsoever,
it cannot win unless it has strong
help and backing from forces out-
side the straight political organiza-
tion—such as the Democratic
Party has on the other side in
Walter Reuther's Committee on
Political Education."

He says that not even the Demo-
cratic Party, "which, for all of its
bitter internal splits, remains a
far more disciplined and unified
organization for campaign pur-
poses than the Republican Party,
can carry out any such precinct
activities precisely directed at a
national aim."

Welch, who himself ran unsuc-
cessfully for Republican nomina-
tion lieutenant governor of Mas-
sachusetts some years ago and
is a former director and vice pres-
ident of the National Association
of Manufacturers, said until a few
months before the 1953 organiza-
tion of the John Birch Society "I
was still giving some thought to
starting some quiet but strong
non-political organizing for polit-
ical purposes right in Massachu-
setts, with a view to either cap-
turing the Republican nomination
for the Senate from [Sen. Lev-
erett] Saltonstall in 1960 or run-
ning as an Independent as circum-
stances then indicated." But he
rejected the idea as unworkable.
Welch's "Blue Book" reference
to Kennedy is contained in his dis-
cussion of the "amoral man,"
first among the Communists and
then, "... on our own side of
the fence, among the millions who
either are, or pretend to be, non-
Communists, the amoral man,
who has no slightest inner con-
cern with right or wrong, is one of
the greatest causes of our con-
stant retreat, and one of the great-
est dangers to our survival. And
he doesn't wear any label."

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AT FILE NO.	

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"He usually lives up to the appearance of excellent morals, because it is expedient for his purposes, and you will usually find him in church on Sunday morning, maybe even a Catholic church. But as a member of the United States Senate, running for the presidency, and smart enough to know the strong Communist support behind the scenes which he will have to get in order to have any chance of being nominated in 1960, such an amoral man can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States; and he can do an almost equal amount of damage to anti-Communist morale in other parts of the world, by his well-publicized speeches against Chiang Kai-shek or in favor of the Algerian rebels.

"Or an amoral man, as the head of a great so-called Republic, may have no slightest scruples or concern about its fate or the fate of other nations, in the face of Communist conquest and of the cruel tyranny of their rule. And any similarity of characters in this story to any living persons is not coincidental."

Welch does refer to Kennedy by name in one point in the "Blue Book" where he says he can "foresee possibilities where every one of us would work for . . . and vote for" Richard M. Nixon in 1960 "despite what I have said [about Nixon]—as if, for instance, he were the Republican candidate against Walter Reuther or even Reuther's stooge, Jack Kennedy, on the Democratic ticket." For this reason, he said, he did not intend to put his remarks about Nixon on a tape recording of the "Blue Book" for use in organizational meetings for the John Birch Society.

He said that "up to the time the nomination was stolen from Bob Taft in 1952, it was still possible to have saved our country, from the immediate Communist danger, anyway, primarily by political action." Now, however, while believing "We shall have to use politicians, support politicians, create politicians, and help the best ones we can find to get elected," Welch is "thoroughly convinced . . . that we cannot count on politicians, po-

litical leadership, or even political action except as a part of something much deeper and broader, to save us."

* * *

As for present top Republican prospects, Welch says, "I think Nelson Rockefeller is definitely committed to trying to make the United States a part of a one-world socialist government, while I don't think Nixon is committed to anything other than the career of Richard Nixon. In that, he is neither better nor worse than most other politicians, merely smarter."

Nixon is "one of the ablest, shrewdest, most disingenuous, and slipperiest politicians that ever showed up on the American scene. He can sit in Washington one night and convince the best ball-carrier they have, and spend four hours in the Waldorf Towers the next day convincing [Gen. Douglas] MacArthur and Herbert Hoover that he is their man. He can use the tremendously overrated and overpublicized but actually highly cautious part he played in the Alger Hiss exposure, to hang onto the hopeful loyalty of the vigorous anti-Communists, at the very time when he is insinuating himself into the good graces of the Left by quietly knifing [Sen. Joseph] McCarthy. . .

"What good would such a man be to us, even as President, unless outside forces and accomplishments made it opportunistic and expedient for him to ride an anti-Communist wave which those outside forces had created? As for being a leader, the sad

truth, hard for many hopeful and wishful conservative Republicans to realize, is that Richard Nixon, a most engaging personality and clever politician, has never been a leader in connection with any event or development, or at any stage in his career.

"But for the dirtiest deal in American political history, participated in if not actually engineered by Richard Nixon in order to make himself Vice-President (and to put Warren on the Supreme Court as part of that deal), Taft would have been nominated at Chicago in 1952. It is almost certain that Taft would then have been elected President by a far greater plurality than was Eisenhower, that a grand rout of the Communists in our government and in our midst would have started, and that we wouldn't even be in this mess that we are supposed to look to Nixon to lead us out of."

Despite all this, however, Welch says Nixon would be "far better than Nelson Rockefeller."

I think Nixon could become a very patriotic anti-Communist if we could create circumstances in which it would be smart politics to be one; whereas I think Nelson Rockefeller would fight for further movements towards the internationalist left. . .

In another move against the Republicans, Welch advocated in the "Blue Book" and the John Birch Society now has as one of its top projects a campaign to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren.

Welch said he thought "we could get the names of a hundred outstanding leaders from the South and many from the North on the letterhead" for such a "front" organization.

Some of the nation's most conservative organizations are among those criticized by Welch. In discussing a move to put the National Review, Dan Smoot Report and other right-wing publications in doctors' offices, he turns thumbs down on the American Medical Association.

" . . . while the American Medical Association has now been 'took,' Welch says, "to the extent that we could not count on any direct help there, the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, still under aggressively anti-socialist leadership, has fifteen thousand members, most of whom are not only highly respected leaders in their profession, but are also actively concerned as individuals in stopping the socialist advance."

THE MAGON (GA.) NEWS

DATE:
RE:
AT FILE NO.

SOME METES"

Founder Senator

such is utterly ir-
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the Birch Society is

THE MACON

Established 1884

PEYTON ANDERSON, Publish

JOE PARHAM

BERT STRUBY

LAMAR PAI

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last
of eight articles on the controversial
John Birch Society.

By GEORGE DOSS

Robert Welch, founder and ruler
of the John Birch Society, damns
many Republican and Democratic
governmental leaders as Commu-
nists or worse, in his view, but in
Sen. Barry Goldwater he finds one
to his liking.

"I'd love to see him president of
the United States, and maybe
some day we shall," Welch writes
in his "Blue Book" or manual of
principles and purposes of the
Birch Society, named for a Macon
man killed by Chinese Commu-
nists in 1945.

Goldwater, Sen. James O. East-
land and several others have given
mild support to Welch and the
Birch Society in statements, but as
criticism has mounted and more
of the story has been told across
the country Goldwater has ac-
knowledgeed several points of basic
disagreement with Welch and a
spokesman for Eastland's Senate
Internal Security subcommittee has
said the subcommittee has sent
out no letter on the subject.

It was revealed last week that
Eastland was sending out a form
letter in reply to letters which
read as follows:

"The John Birch Society about
which you asked is known to be a
conservative anti-Communist or-
ganization. However, the subcom-
mittee cannot endorse any organi-
zation officially. We are happy to
state that it seems to be, from
our records, a patriotic organiza-
tion."

Welch has been less complimen-
tary in discussing Eastland's com-
mittee. In outlining action planned
for the John Birch Society in the
"Blue Book," he said one course
would be "to start shocking the
American people," and in this con-
nection he included the following
paragraph in reference to the East-
land subcommittee and the House
Un-American Activities Commit-
tee:

"No committee we might set up,
of course, would have the sub-
poena privileges or other Con-
gressional powers of the late
Sen. Joseph McCarthy, which
makes our job far more difficult.
And it would, for a while anyway,
be vain to count on either of the
remaining investigating commit-
tees of the House or the Senate.
Their files are already bulging
with important evidence about
individual Communists which has
not been used and is unlikely to
be used. The Communist political
pressures have become so strong
and so devastating, and the Su-
preme Court's decisions have so
hamstrung the actions of these
committees, that they hardly dare
even go through the motions of
hearings of this kind any more."

Chairman Francis E. Walter of
the House Un-American Activi-
ties Committee, which has been
asked by a Wisconsin congress-
man to investigate the Birch So-
ciety, said Thursday he had no
information indicating the com-
mittee should investigate, although
he said the committee has received
many letters complaining that the
Society is "Un-American." Most
of them allege wrongs against in-
dividuals, Walter said, and they
have recourse in the civil courts.

Goldwater said "I don't see how
anybody can be against" the avowed
purpose of the Birch Society to
fight Communists, and that
"I know the type of people it has
attracted in my own community
of Phoenix, and I am impressed
with them. They are the kind we
need in politics."

He added, however, that he dis-
agrees with certain of Welch's
statements, saying he was
"wrong" in calling former Presi-
dent Eisenhower a Communist—
"I saw that statement three or
four years ago and told him
[Welch] then he was wrong." Gold-
water said he also disagrees with
Welch's and the Birch Society's
move to impeach Chief Justice Earl
Warren, who he said he believes
arrived at his decision honestly.
But he said the John Birch Society
is not as far to the right as Ameri-
cans for Democratic Action is to
the left.

While Welch concludes that the
work the John Birch Society was
set up to do—reverse the political,
economic and social trends of the
country as the long term goal
while combatting Communism—
could not be done through a po-
litical leader, he said in the "Blue
Book." "Now the one man who
comes nearest to measuring up to
all the needs and qualifications,
whom we see on the political hori-
zon at the present time, is Barry
Goldwater. I know Barry fairly
well. He is a great American. As
I foresaw a year ago how the
Reutherite Left would concentrate
national strength and resources on
the Arizona campaign, and how
important money from outside Ariz-
ona would be toward enabling
Goldwater to meet that attack ade-
quately, I took it on myself to be-
come a one-man finance commit-
tee for him in Massachusetts. I
raised around two thousand dol-
lars in my state and sent it to
him early in 1958."

"Barry Goldwater has political
know-how and the painstaking gen-
ius to use that know-how with re-
gard to infinite details. He is a
superb political organizer, and in-
spires deep and lasting loyalty. He
is absolutely sound in his Ameri-
canism, has the political and
moral courage to stand by his
Americanist principles, and in my
opinion can be trusted to stand by
them until hell freezes over."

Then Welch sets out the reasons
why he thinks there is not the
"slightest chance of Barry Gold-
water supplying the dynamic over-
all leadership needed to save this
country for anybody to be presi-
dent of"—the leadership which
Welch himself is avowedly at-
tempting to supply.

Goldwater, by the very
circumstances of his political suc-
cess, present prestige, and the ex-
pectations of his supporters, will
inevitably think and move in
terms of political warfare. Even
if he personally should reach the
point and the understanding of

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wanting to consider political action as just a part, no matter how important, of much broader overall action, how much chance do you think there is that his friends and supporters would let him step out of the strictly political role in which he has been so successful?

Suppose you feel that the political factor in the equation is so important that it outweighs all of the others. And that if we could get a man like Barry Goldwater nominated and elected President—or Bill Knowland or Bill Jenner or any one of a dozen others for that matter—by 1960 [the "Blue Book" was written in 1958] or even maybe by 1964—the power of the presidency in the hands of such a man would be enough to save our country.

"Do you think that by strictly political means and without the help of all of the other efforts on all the other fronts, there would be the slightest chance of bringing this about? That with the present shattered condition of the Republican Party, and the grip of the Leftists inside both parties on various pieces of those parties, there is going to be any slightest chance of getting a solid, courageous, uncompromising Americanist nominated by either party—unless there are huge compelling forces at work outside of the parties which are not affected by the ubiquitous opportunism inside the parties? . . . We've been counting on that kind of salvation, and hence going steadily down the drain, for twenty years."

Welch's aims and methods have brought him into conflict with no less an authority and militant fighter of Communism than Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In his book, "Masters of Deceit," Hoover advised citizens to report any information about subversive activities to the FBI and emphasized, "Don't try to investigate yourself. Security investigations require great care and effort. The innocent must be protected as well as the guilty identified. That is the job for the professional investigator. Hysteria, witch hunts, and vigilantes weaken our internal security."

Hoover writes also that "identifying communists is not easy" and that for this reason "we must be absolutely certain that our fight is waged with full regard for the historic liberties of this great union. . . . Too often I have seen

cases where loyal and patriotic but misguided Americans have thought they were fighting communism by slapping the label of 'Red' or 'communist' on anybody who happens to be different from them or to have ideas with which they do not agree."

Welch again seems to disagree with Hoover on the question of "civil rights" in his espousal of a familiar theme of staunch racial segregationists, rejected by Hoover with praise for the NAACP fight against Communist efforts at infiltration. Hoover says also that "one of the chief jobs of the FBI, fully as important as tracking down spies, is to protect the civil rights of the individuals."

Welch says, "The trouble in our Southern states has been fomented almost entirely by the Communists" to take over the country by inciting civil war if other efforts fail.

"It has been their plan, gradually carried out over a long period with meticulous cunning, to stir up such bitterness between whites and blacks in the South that small flames of civil disorder would inevitably result. They could then fan and coalesce these little flames into one great conflagration of civil war, in time, if the need arose."

"The whole slogan of 'civil rights,' as used to make trouble in the South today, is an exact parallel to the slogan of 'agrarian reform' which they used in China."

As for the churches, where much of the community controversy resulting from John Birch Society chapters in many parts of the country has centered, Welch says that "fully one-third of the services in at least the Protestant churches of America are helping" the trend he deplors. "For the ministers themselves are not true believers in the Divine Names or the Divine History and Divine Teachings to which they give lip service, as they go through their conventional motions on Sunday mornings."

"Some have merely watered down the faith of our fathers, and of theirs, into an innocuous philosophy instead of an evangelistic religion. Some have converted Christianity into a so-called 'social gospel,' that bypasses all questions of dogma with an indifference which is comfortable to both themselves and their parishioners; and which 'social gospel' becomes in fact indistinguishable from advocacy of

the welfare state by socialist politicians."

And some actually use their pulpits to preach outright Communism, often in very thin disguise if any, while having the hypocrisy as atheists to thank God in public for their progressive apostasy."

Welch's criticism of the churches is similar to that of J. B. Matthews, an associate editor of his American Opinion magazine who resigned as chief investigator of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's Senate committee in 1953 after publication of an article in American Mercury in which he charged that clergymen were "the largest single group supporting the Communist apparatus" in this country.

Welch makes it clear that he leans heavily on Matthews, noting in the "Blue Book" that some information he was distributing about communism "although put together by such an amateur as myself, have been passed on by experts like J. B. Matthews as authentic." And he says that because his "opinion of various characters" has been proved to coincide with that of Matthews so that he knows he himself has a "fairly accurate nose" for spotting Reds. He says he also has "the benefit of J. B.'s files, almost incredible memory, and judgment built out of long experience."

The first man to bring public word of the John Birch Society to Macon, Gordon Hall of Boston, Mass., who spoke to the Macon Civitan Club on Feb. 10 on extremist groups on the far right which he said "badly muddy the water of public opinion," is attacked by Welch in the "Blue Book." It was Welch's charges against Hall which local members of the Birch Society sought to use to prevent him from speaking here.

Welch lumps Hall and John Roy Carlson, author of the book "Undercover" published in the 1940s, as "toilers for the Communist cause." Carlson's book exposed a number of extreme rightist and fascist groups, such as the German-American Bund, and those connected with them. Welch calls his book "libelous" and says it "viciously smeared many good American patriots . . ."

Welch praises Dr. Medford Evans, who he says gave up his job as chief of security training for the Atomic Energy Commission to write a book exposing "traitors" and later was fired from Northwestern State College

THE MACON (GA.) NEWS

DATE

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in Louisiana "for no other reason than his uncompromising stand against communism." This latter, Welch says, "can be shown conclusively to the satisfaction of any reasonable man, even a college professor." He proposed setting up as a "front" a "Committee to Protest the Firing of Medford Evans" and cites the fact that Evans' book sold only 2,600 copies as proof of the "effectiveness of the blanket of obfuscation, with which Communist influences have been able to keep the truth about their activities from being known."

The John Birch Society's council includes two former presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers and formerly included a third. Other members include Spruille Braden, former U. S. ambassador; T. Coleman Andrews, former internal revenue director; Clarence Manion, former

dean of the Notre Dame law school; Col. Laurence E. Bunker, former personnel aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur; and Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III, USAF (ret.), former commander of the 14th Air Force in China and Capt. John Birch's superior.

Braden has said he doesn't agree with Welch's charge that former President Eisenhower was a Communist agent but that this in no way led him to question Welch's judgment on other matters. "He may exaggerate sometimes," Braden said of Welch, but added, "When you're in a barroom brawl, no holds are barred. You don't fight by the Marquis of Queensbury rules."

Letters from Braden and Andrews endorsing the John Birch Society are included in a recent booklet being distributed from the Belmont, Mass., headquarters.

A committee of endorsers is listed in the booklet with a note that it is "now in process of formation." Three Georgians are listed. They are Hugh H. Armstrong, Paul K. McKenney Jr.,

and R. Carter Pittman; the latter a Dalton lawyer, former president and official of the States Rights Council of Georgia which now is headed by Roy V. Harris of Augusta.

THE MASON (GA.) NEWS

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U.S. Keeps Its Eye on Birch Unit

Sen. Dodd to Ask For Investigation

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy is concerned about the ultra-conservative John Birch Society, the Justice department reported Friday. But it declined to say whether he was investigating the semi-secret organization.

The statement came as Vice Chairman Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee said he would raise the possibility of a Senate investigation of the self-styled anti-Communist group at the subcommittee's next meeting. He did not say he would push for an inquiry.

Rep. Don L. Short, D-N.D., called for a Justice department inquiry. Assistant Senate Republican Leader Thomas H. Kuchel, Calif., Thursday proposed that the Senate Government Operations Committee question Robert Welch, former candy manufacturer who founded the society.

MANY INQUIRIES

A spokesman for Welch at the society's Belmont, Mass., headquarters said the founder had no comment on criticism of the group and demands for an investigation.

A Justice department spokesman said the attorney general's concern about the society was prompted by the "growing number of inquiries the Justice department has received" about the group. There was no elaboration on the brief statement.

But Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, R-Calif., the first member of Congress to reveal that he belongs to the society, said he and Welch would welcome a congressional inquiry, "the more thorough, the better."

DENIES FASCISM

Hiestand defended the organization as the best means of fighting the "Communist conspiracy." He conceded that some members might be extremists, but denied the society is a clandestine or Fascist group.

In New York, the American Civil Liberties Union defended the right of the Birch society to express its own opinions in a letter to Rep. Francis E. Walter, chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

"Regardless of how extreme and distorted (the society's) views may be or how obnoxious they are to us or to the public at large, under the First Amendment, they have the right to be expressed free of government interference," the ACLU said.

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Birch Unit Head Asks for Probe

Eastland Receives Pledge Members Would Not Take 5th Amendment

BOSTON, April 1 (UPI) — Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, sent a telegram to the Senate internal security committee Saturday asking for an official investigation of his organization.

Welch, in a telegram to Sen. James O. Eastland, chairman of the subcommittee, pledged that members would testify openly and "unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

THE REQUEST for an investigation came after the Justice Department reported in Washington that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy was concerned about the ultra-conservative John Birch Society.

The society is named for an American missionary killed by the Chinese Communists shortly after the end of World War II. Founders of the society regard him as the first victim of the cold war.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., vice chairman of the Senate subcommittee said he would raise the possibility of a Senate investigation of the anti-Communist group. Other members of Congress pressed for an investigation.

EARLIER SATURDAY, Welch had no comment on criticism of his group and demands for an investigation. But this afternoon, a secretary who declined to answer any questions, telephoned United Press International to announce that Welch had asked for an investigation, "because of the charges now being so widely circulated about us, some of which are extreme distortions of fact and many of which are sheer fabrications."

"As many of our members as

your committee may wish will gladly testify about the background, methods, purposes and specific activities of the society," Welch told Eastland. "And we repeat our assurance made recently to the chairman of a committee in California that, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

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Pulse of the Public

Atlantan Who Knew John Birch Blasts That Society for 'Besmirching' His Name

Atlanta—I wish to express my deep anger at the brazen effrontery of the ghouls who are using the name and memory of one of the noblest Americans of our generation to hide behind in creating another so-called patri-

otic organization, which actually is nothing less than a foul racket operated for the personal profit and aggrandizement of the organizers. Reference is made to the ultra-conservative, semi-secret organization—the John Birch Society.

I knew John Birch intimately. While he lived he was my best friend. I knew him for a devout, God-fearing Christian, whose chief trait was genuine modesty. He was motivated by a deep and consuming love of country, exceeded only by his Christian love for mankind.

A summa cum laude graduate of Macon's historic Mercer University, he was qualified for a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford. At the age of 21 he served with unusual distinction as stated supply of the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Augusta.

He went to China as a missionary, but when war came he offered his considerable talents to his country and served as an intelligence officer. He had earned the rank of captain at the time of his assassination.

The record indicates he was most foully murdered by the Chinese Communists, while serving as the United States observer at the surrender of Japanese forces in northern China on August 25, 1945.

For this exemplary American—a walking example of Christian love, humility, and forbearance—to now have his name and memory besmirched by a slimy group of opportunists who preach hate, vilification and lies to gain their odoriferous reward is not only greatly disquieting to me, his close friend, but it must be also to all others who knew him for the kind of man he was.

The Atlanta Constitution, the Los Angeles Times, former Vice President Nixon and Sen. Milton R. Young (R-ND) are to be com-

mended for their public stand against the tactics of this society which seeks a million members and a million dollars.

JAMES FRITZ SALLEY

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"Main Street McCarthyites"

A CAREFULLY-researched, fully-documented series on the John Birch Society has been running in The News and winds up today. It has been a factual account of the history, objectives, motivation and methods of the John Birch Society, as expounded by the founder, a Massachusetts millionaire.

The facts have not been easy to come by. Secrecy within the Birch organization makes the Ku Klux Klan look like a bunch of chattering magpies. The discipline imposed by the founder, Robert Welch, is harsh. The Birch Society is composed of tough-minded members who, if they do not all accept Welch's contention that every United States President beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt was or is communist or an actual Communist, at least continue to pay \$24 a year (for men) or \$12 (for women) to follow the leadership of a man who subscribes to such beliefs.

FBI J. Edgar Hoover has said: "The job of curtailing and containing communism is one for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen. This is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action." And it was announced today that the Birch Society is a matter of concern to the attorney general.

Now, this being an editorial, we come to the opinion.

In our view, the John Birch Society, made up of self-styled dedicated patriots, is nothing but an organization of "Main Street McCarthyites."

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Macon, Georgia
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RE:

AT File: 100-5857-32

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APR 4 - 1961	
FBI - ATLANTA	

Birch leader Welch is utterly irresponsible in his accusations of treason or near-treason and he offers no proof of his charges.

The effect of the Birch Society is to stifle free speech, suppress forthright opinion and spread fear and suspicion. Anyone who criticizes the John Birch Society may be liable to an accusation of pro-communism because the organization itself makes anti-communism its strong suit.

The John Birch Society members, whether they hold membership in Macon or elsewhere, may not agree but we believe:

That radical changes in our present democratic system would be harmful;

The churches and colleges are not rotten to the core with communism but rather that more than 99 per cent are composed of and run by loyal Americans;

That our friends and neighbors are not Communists and the fact that they may disagree with us or with others on certain issues does not make them communistic;

That the American government is sound and that our political leaders, while some may be unwise or in a few cases venal, are nevertheless patriotic servers of freedom's cause;

That the silence of fear is unAmerican, whether imposed by the right or imposed by the left;

And that those who would "save" us by using methods admittedly adapted from the Communists should be watched as carefully and viewed with as much skepticism as the Communists themselves.

2

John Birch a Hero? Comrade Says Yes

LOS ANGELES, April 3 (AP)—
Different views are voiced today
on the death of John Birch, for

whom the right wing John Birch
Society was named.

Birch, then an Army captain,
was killed Aug. 25, 1945, while on
an OSS intelligence mission in
central China.

In Billings, Mont., radio-TV ex-
ecutive Joseph Sample — who
served in the same OSS outfit as
Birch — said in an interview:

"There was no real object les-
son in Birch's death and cer-
tainly no glory."

In Los Angeles, stockbroker
William P. Weiss Jr. — onetime
OSS officer who made up the mis-
sion on which Birch was killed—
said:

"Certainly John was just as
much a hero as any other Ameri-
can soldier who died for his coun-
try."

...

AND IN Pasadena, a Los An-
geles suburb, manufacturer Gus-
tav J. Krause — another war-
time comrade of Birch — said:

"He brought about his own
death. He didn't die the hero he
was supposed to have died."

The John Birch Society, under
fire from some national maga-
zines, and newspapers and some
congressmen, has been accused
of using fascist tactics in its self-
appointed task of fighting com-
munism.

Birch, a missionary's son who
spoke fluent Chinese, was shot by
the leader of a group of Com-
munist Chinese.

Sample, president of KOOK and
KOOK-TV in Billings, said Birch's
patrol ran into "a force of Chi-
nese Reds. The Chinese were un-
derstandably disturbed by what
seemed to them an unwarranted
intrusion of their area and de-
manded an explanation.

"Capt. Birch chose to bluff his
way out of a difficult situation.

Harsh words led to insults and
insults to arrogance. . . ."

WEISS, who lives in suburban
Alhambra, said:

"He (Birch) was risking his
life over and above the normal
hazards required of our services
during the war on a volunteer
basis. . . . Unfortunately, he was
not as skilled as he should have
been. But he certainly is just as
much a hero, as he died for his
country in trying conditions."

Said Krause:

"The Chinese Communists
would fire at the drop of a hat.
Because of Birch's background
and his long life in China
he threw his weight around. . . .
He was the type of fellow who
was not a military man but was
recruited because of his language
ability."

"There were many men who
gave their lives — thousands of
Americans who were much great-
er heroes. But Birch operated on
the fact that he knew the Chinese
language and had lived in China."

The Atlanta Journal
April 3, 1961
Editor: JACK SPALDING
RE:

AT File: 100-5857 - 33

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Birch Decorated Twice as U.S. Agent

By FRED S. HOFFMAN

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Army made public Tuesday extracts from the service record of Capt. John M. Birch, whose name was adopted as that of an ultra-rightist organization whose founder has called former President Dwight D. Eisenhower an agent of the Communist conspiracy.

The record shows Birch twice was decorated, in part for behind-the-lines intelligence work in China during World War II.

LEGION OF MERIT

One citation released by the Army was for the award of the Legion of Merit on July 17, 1944, and the other was for an Oak Leaf Cluster conferred posthumously on Jan. 8, 1946.

While saying Birch was killed on Aug. 25, 1945—10 days after the war ended—the extract shed no light on statements by members of the Birch society that he was slain by Chinese Communists.

Robert Welch, the retired Massachusetts candy manufacturer who founded the Birch Society, has called Birch "the first casualty in the third world war between the Communists and the ever-shrinking free world."

SLAIN BY REDS

The Army extract does not say how Birch was killed, or mention the Communists. It doesn't even say where he died, but an Army spokesman acknowledged it was in China.

Birch was a Baptist missionary who worked in China before the U. S. war with Japan and was commissioned in the Army Air Corps after the fighting began. He was 27 when he died.

His mother, Mrs. George S. Birch of Macon, Ga., has said the first official report received by Birch's family said he had been killed by stray bullets, but that it later was confirmed Birch was slain by the Chinese Communists.

Welch has contended the facts in the Birch case were suppressed for some time by what he called pro-Communist groups in the United States.

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DATE 2-17-04 BY 606290 KJ/KC/PAK

The Atlanta Constitution
April 5, 1961
Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON
E:

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Pulse of the Public

We Need a Sound Policy for Dealing With John Birch Society---One Based on Facts

Fitzgerald--It is human nature to condemn, or at least to shy away from any extremist group--and yet, it is the radical, not the conservative, who usually has his way. Because of these two facts, most people agree that we need a sound policy for dealing with the John Birch type of society. But how can a rational policy be formulated if we do not know the facts?

All we know, or rather all we think we know, about the John Birch Society has come from hearsay or similarly unreliable sources. The fraternal secretive-

ness of this particular organization is, of course, a contributing factor to this situation.

Whether or not this group uses subversive methods and adheres to un-American principles will never be known so long as the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and the House Un-American Activities Committee remain silent and seemingly disinterested in the issue.

I am firmly convinced that the John Birch Society and all other ultra-right-wing organizations demand an immediate and full-scale congressional investigation.

JOHN D. McCORD III.

The Atlanta Constitution
April 5, 1961
Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON
RE:

AT File: 100-5857 — 21

2 cc Bur.

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The Birchers Are Here

WHEN AMERICA woke up, it woke up with a start. A start of disgust, surprise and alarm at the tactics being practiced by the John Birch Society. This semi-secret organization has now been revealed for what it is: a society of disciplined members who boast they intend to use communistic methods to fight communism and save America.

The director of the FBI, the U. S. Attorney General, various members of the U. S. House and Senate, newspapers and individuals have expressed concern over those who aggravate disagreements, encourage distrust, attempt to weaken our schools and churches, and recklessly accuse those who don't follow certain radical principles of being Communist dupes. Some of those who have so spoken have specifically named the John Birch Society. Others have left no doubt that they were zeroing in on organizations such as the Birchers.

Is this something that is happening in California or in Vermont? Is this some organization which we need not worry about because it could never bring discord and sow its seeds of suspicion in our community? The answer is a thunderous "No!" The Birchers are here now. There is a chapter in Macon. There are John Birch Society members, even if some may be ashamed to admit it, in our own city.

One may wonder if the Birchers

have worked their smears here. One recalls the controversy over the Foreign Policy Association's furnishing of background material for the Great Decisions program sponsored by the Macon Council on World Affairs. One knows that at least one Bircher was in a group which sought to have the Bibb County grand jury condemn and cast doubt on the program. There may have been others. It is not easy to find out since the John Birch Society is a secretive group.

Whatever or whoever may have been behind the attempted sabotage of the Great Decisions studies of world affairs in this community, the results must have delighted the hearts of the Birchers. The timid dropped out of the study groups. The illogical agreed that it would be foolish to study both sides of an issue. The fanatical professed to see a Communist behind practically every other bedpost in Macon. The faint-hearted wanted no part of anything which might be controversial.

Those left were the Great Decisions participants who refused to be intimidated by aspersions, or bullied by officialdom, or to have dictated to them what they could or could not study and discuss as free citizens of a free nation.

Thank God there are more of them—in Macon and in America—than there are members of the John Birch Society.

WEEK MAISON (GA.) NEWS
DATE 4-5-61
RE: John Birch Society
AT FIRE NO.

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DATE 2/7/04 BY 60290BCE/TCR/PK

Beware of Vigilante Action, Hoover Warns In Reply to Questions About Birch Society

"In combating Communism we must beware of vigilante action," FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told The Macon News today in reply to questions about the John Birch Society.

In answer to a letter from The News citing several quotations from the "Blue Book" of the Birch Society by its founder, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., Hoover wrote as follows:

"While the endeavors of private citizens with regard to combating the menace of the Communist conspiracy must be given our most urgent encouragement, I have always cautioned against confusing Communism with legitimate dissent on controversial issues. In combating Communism we must beware of vigilante action.

"We must also guard against the tendency to characterize as Communists those who disagree with us or who advocate unorthodox or unlawful beliefs. Of

course, it is the responsibility and duty of our citizens to report to the FBI any instance of subversion which comes to their attention."

After citing the Welch quotations and others from Hoover's own book, "Masters of Deceit," The News had asked Hoover, "Is our entire government and society infiltrated and activated by Communists and Communist sympathizers as Mr. Welch obviously believes? Should we Americans organize societies to fight Communists by use of their own methods, or should we, as your book suggests, report any information we have of subversive activities to the FBI and leave it to your organization to carry out the investigation?"

His reply was similar to an editorial the Federal Bureau of Investigation director wrote in the current issue of the FBI bulletin which did not mention the Birch Society by name but apparently stemmed from the increasing controversy about it across the country.

Hoover, in his book, said, "We must be absolutely certain that our fight against Communism is waged with full regard for the historic liberties of this great nation. . . . Too often I have seen cases where loyal and patriotic but misguided Americans have thought they were 'fighting Communism' by slapping the label of 'Red' or 'Communist' on anybody who happened to be different from them or to have ideas with which they did not agree."

In Massachusetts, Richard Cardinal Cushing, Catholic archbishop of Boston, spoke out in a speech for Welch, describing him as a "very capable, fearless man who has made sacrifices to fight Communism."

But the Cardinal said nevertheless that anyone who charges former President Eisenhower with Communist leanings is "speaking absurdities." [Welch, in a privately published book-length letter, said Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy." He denied last week that he had called the former president a "card carrying Communist" and said quotation of his letter was "unethical."]

"Anyone who is fighting Communism today on a top level and who knows the methods and teaching of Communism—that man is going to suffer," the Boston prelate said in an address to business and professional men in North Eaton, Mass.

Earlier, a spokesman for Cardinal Cushing said he had "no comment" on a letter he wrote on April 28, 1960, to C. M. Crawford of Los Angeles, Calif., endorsing the John Birch Society. The letter is reprinted in a booklet recently released by the society from its Belmont, Mass., headquarters.

"Replying to your recent letter," Cardinal Cushing wrote, "I beg to advise you that I do not know of any more dedicated anti-Com-

munist in the country than Robert Welch.

"I unhesitatingly recommend him to you and endorse his John Birch Society."

Meanwhile, in Columbus, Paul K. McKenney Jr., vice president of Swift Manufacturing Co., of Columbus and president of the Georgia Textile Manufacturers Association, acknowledged that he has endorsed the John Birch Society. He is one of three Georgians listed on a "committee of endorsers" in the back of the same society booklet in which Cardinal Cushing's letter is published.

McKenney added, however, "That does not mean that I subscribe to all of its activities or programs. But I do favor the purpose of the society, which is anti-Communist." He would make no other comment.

The two other Georgia endorsers, Attorney R. Carter Pittman of Dalton and Real Estate Man Hugh H. Armstrong of Savannah, earlier had acknowledged their endorsements though both expressed disagreement with Welch's charge that Eisenhower is a Communist while agreeing with much of the balance of his program and sentiments.

MACON (Ga.) NEWS
DATE 4-6-61
RE: John Birch Society
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DATE 2/17/04 BY 60290 BCE/KCF

Cardinal Cushing Says Birch Head Is 'Fearless'

NORTH EASTON, Mass., April 6 (AP)—Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston says Robert Welch, founder and leader of the controversial John Birch society, is a "very capable, fearless man who has made sacrifices to fight Communism."

Nevertheless, anyone who charges former President Eisenhower with Communist leanings is "speaking absurdities," the Cardinal said in a speech.

"Anyone who is fighting Com-

munist today on a top level and who knows the methods and teaching of Communism — that man is going to suffer," the Boston prelate told business and professional men.

Demands recently have been made in Congress for an investigation of Welch and the society he heads, following disclosure of Welch letters in which he refers to former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower as tools of Communism.

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The Atlanta Journal
Atlanta, Georgia
April 6, 1961
Editor: Jack Spalding
Atlanta Division

AT 100-5857

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DATE 7-17-04 BY *amc 60290 BCE/TCJ/DA*

Birch Unit Ridiculous, Says Robert Kennedy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy said Thursday he thinks the John Birch Society is ridiculous.

"I don't think anybody should really pay too much attention to them," Kennedy told his first news conference when he was asked about members of the ultra-rightist organization headed by Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass.

The John Birch Society has drawn criticism in Congress and elsewhere for statements by its founder, Welch, describing Dwight D. Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles and other eminent leaders as tools of communism.

"I think they make no contribution to the 'fight against

communism here in the United States, and in fact I think if anything they are a hindrance," he said.

The John Birch Society has drawn criticism in Congress and elsewhere for statements by its founder, Welch, describing Dwight D. Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles and other eminent leaders as tools of communism.

The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
April 7, 1961
Editor: Eugene Patterson
Atlanta Division

AT 100-5857

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Arthur Krock

Ridicule Can Kill The Birch Society

WASHINGTON—The attacks on and defenses of the John Birch Society, including a call for investigation that Congress very sensibly seems to have no intention to heed, support a growing impression that ridicule, as Atty. Gen. Kennedy has indicated, is becoming a lost art in American public controversies. For no citizens, however well-meaning, have made their movement and its followers a more vulnerable target to destruction through ridicule than have the founder and some of the prominent members of the John Birch Society.

The reason why senators and others are bracketing it, as a Fascist menace to American institutions, with the international communism the group was organized to combat, may be the overpowering gravity of these troubled times.

Because of a recent spate of newspaper publications about the Birchites, the direct aspersions by their founder, Robert Welch, on the loyalty of President Eisenhower, Chief Justice Earl Warren and others is now a matter of common knowledge. Millions of citizens instead of a few are aware that a number of outstanding leaders in American industry and education joined the organization under Welch's leadership with full knowledge he was the author of these diatribes. It was indicated in one expose that some of these leaders subscribed to these aspersions, which Welch has since recanted under fire.

The emasculatation of the Liberty League by President Franklin D. Roosevelt was achieved by making the general public laugh at it. This history is only recalled to emphasize that point, not to imply the slightest comparison between that truly patriotic, distinguished and

responsible organization with the John Birch Society. It was formed on the conviction that individual rights were being steadily encroached on by the New Deal, with state socialism the unavoidable consequence, if not the goal of extreme New Dealers.

When the league membership was published, with its glittering galaxy of multimillionaires, President Roosevelt instantly saw its real vulnerability was to ridicule. Noting, as Rexford Tugwell has recorded, that "the wealthiest and most powerful members of the industrial elite and their lawyers" described their mission as an effort to reclaim the freedom of the American people, he publicly inquired with an innocent air "just what liberties the DuPonts and General Motors had lost." In the same vein the President discussed the league at a news conference. Speaking at first seriously, then with irony, he offered the mild opinion that it stressed private property protection at the expense of the protection of the "average citizen." The league's tenet, he said, was "love thy God (which he said was private property) but forget thy neighbor."

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The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
April 8, 1961
Editor: Eugene Patterson
Atlanta Division

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JAVITS ASKS BIRCH PROBE

PRINCETON, N.J., April 8 (AP)—Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., Saturday called for a Congressional investigation of the militantly conservative John Birch Society.

In a speech prepared for delivery at the Princeton University symposium on world affairs, Javits said:

"The John Birch Society has now come along to remind us again that the principles of a

free society can be eroded from the extreme right as well as the extreme left. Can we be complacent when men of position and influence seriously fight for the impeachment of Supreme Court (chief) Justice Earl Warren? Or when its leader is a man who has seriously contended that President Eisenhower was "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy? Or when a secret group purports to fix a Communist label on people who don't suit

them? They undermine the very foundations of the republic because they jeopardize the confidence of the people in their tried and proven leaders.

"That is why, just as I have encouraged the continued exposure of ultra-leftist movements, I hope there will be a continued exposure of the John Birch Society—even to the extent of a congressional investigation."

JAVITS ALSO dwelt on racial

discrimination, which he said has "become an international peace issue . . . vital to our national security." He said the United States could meet "this grave challenge" by:

1. Being completely honest about the extent of its human relations problems.
2. Passing federal laws to help speed up public desegregation.
3. An uncompromising stand by the President "on every occasion

and in every detail" to demonstrate that the principles of equality are our national policy.

4. An executive order against discrimination in federally assisted housing.

Javits said the "ultra-conservative approach is dangerously inadequate" in the field of civil rights.

Ultra-conservatism, he said, "would launch no new initiatives in the civil rights fields. It would oppose a tightening of Senate rules against the filibuster—the South's potent weapon in battling civil rights legislation."

The Atlanta Journal and
The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
April 9, 1961
Sunday Editor: Joel Huff
Atlanta Division

AT 100-5857

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Close-up

Are Reds Using the John Birch Society?

Recently I wrote a column defending the minority opinion of the Supreme Court in a couple of First Amendment cases and another column questioning the activities of the House Un-American Activities Committee. The columns prompted several long and critical letters from a former Georgian now living in Washington.

The writer of those letters has made a thorough study of Communist tactics in America. He is firmly convinced that Red subversion is the country's greatest threat, that critics of the committees investigating the threat aid and comfort the subversives, that the Supreme Court justices who insist the Bill of Rights offers "absolute" freedom to one and all are mistaken, and so forth.

He also thinks that Communists may be using the John Birch Society to make all anti-Communists suspect.

If you were a Communist you would certainly want to discredit all your enemies. It would be



ideal for you if people ever got to the point where they ignored all charges that "so and so's a Communist."

And people may well get that way if they continually see that cries of "Communist" are not well-founded, not reasonable, not honest. Sooner or later people are going to equate the charge of subversion with mere irresponsible disagreement. Then when a respectable organization points out a real Communist, the people aren't going to see him.

When a man tells you Gen. Eisenhower is a subversive you don't believe it. If he keeps telling you, sooner or later you may get to the point that even when the Justice department comes along, points out a guy with a black beard and a bomb and tells you he's a Communist, you won't believe that either.

Even if the John Birch Society didn't help the Communist cause, even if it hurt it, it wouldn't be a very American organization. The ends don't justify the means in this country.

But it well may be that the worse sin the John Birchers will commit is that they will so discredit anti-communism, the Reds in America will be able to operate with greater ease than ever before.—TED LIPPMAN.

The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
April 7, 1961
Editor: Eugene Patterson
Atlanta Division

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FBI - ATLANTA	

Not in John Birch, Ex-KKK Chief Says

Clearwater—There has been some attempt to tie me up with the John Birch Society. When I quit I meant exactly what I said, and I am going to join no society — I am now writing a book, The Wasted Twenty Years.

I take note of the people who belong to the John Birch Society and find them to be the Uptown Ku Klux Klan or the Parlor Fascists, the same groups who organized the Citizens Councils, the Committees for Constitutional Government — the States Rights Parties and many other so-called Right Wing organizations.

I broke away when I supported Kennedy for President and I still think Kennedy will bring this country out of this depression. I am strongly supporting all of his housing bill as this bill only loans the American people the money to rebuild our country.

Over the years I have belonged to and fought with many groups, but it now seems to me that if the groups who are spending so much time and money fighting each other: the NAACP, the Democrats, the Republicans, the Unions, the White Supremists, the Black Supremists, the churches . . . and many others would spend as much time and money getting together and trying to understand each other we would have a much better country without all the belly-aching.

BILL HENDRIX

Editor's Note: Mr. Hendrix once was Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan in Florida.

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The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
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The Macon News
Macon, Georgia
April 6, 1961
Editor: JOE PARHAM
RE:

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Birch Group Has 2 Secrets

LOS ANGELES, April 10 (AP)—
The founder of the controversial

John Birch Society says it isn't
a secret society — and has only
two secrets:

"We don't tell how many mem-
bers we have, and we'll not tell
the names of our members."

ROBERT WELCH of Belmont,
Mass., gave this explanation when
interviewed on a local television
program Sunday night.

Welch appeared with Dr. James
W. Fifield Jr., minister of the
First Congregational Church of
Los Angeles, on the latter's week-
ly program on a local TV chan-
nel.

SOME congressmen have called
for investigation of the organiza-
tion. Atty. Gen. Robert F. Ken-
nedy said last week he thinks the
society is ridiculous, that its mem-
bers "make no contribution . . .
to the fight against communism
here in the United States, and, in
fact, I think if anything they are
a hindrance."

The California Senate fact-find-
ing committee on un-American ac-
tivities announced Saturday it has
scheduled an inquiry into the so-
ciety for some time after the leg-
islature adjourns in June.

FIFIELD, remarking that the
society is a national organization,
suggested the proper place for an
investigation is in the federal gov-
ernment.

Welch said he would welcome a
national investigation by "proper-
ly constituted authority . . . either

one of the committees of the
House or the Senate."

DR. FIFIELD asked "whether
the Communist conspiracy could
have made progress without the
unknowing connivance of people
high in government."

"I don't think so," Welch re-
plied. "Certainly there has been
a considerable amount of conniv-
ance within our government."

The pastor told Welch: "I pre-
dict that the present hysteria

about the John Birch Society will
result in a million members for
your society . . . God bless you."

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GROUP SILENT ON NAMES

Birch Chapters Here?

By MARGARET SHANNON

The headquarters of the John Birch Society in Belmont, Mass., says the organization has chapters in Atlanta. But it will not say who leads them or who belongs.

An Atlanta woman, who says she belongs to the home, or Belmont, chapter, deplores "horrible reporting" about the society. But she declines to name any local chapter leader or member who possibly could tell the society's side of the story.

A Georgia Tech faculty member who disclaims Birch membership, but considers the society praiseworthy, is sure the organization is active in Atlanta. But he does not call its members by name.

A suburban newspaper editorializes that "there is a local chapter of the John Birch Society, and its membership includes eminent Atlantans." It names none.

SUCH IS the nature of the John Birch Society locally that its would-be foes are hard put to pin-

point their target and its would-be friends are hesitant to give credit where credit is due.

But, liked or disliked, it emerges as one of the most intriguing of organizations in the Atlanta area espousing the anti-Communist cause and as a potential cohesive force for diverse groups and individuals interested in the cause.

There are organizations and individuals in the Atlanta area devoted to fighting communism as they see it in the churches, the schools, mental health programs, fluoridation, the United Nations and integration.

Some devote long hours to research, speech-making, letter-writing and telephoning. They issue and distribute pamphlets and tracts. They listen to radio broadcasts and circulate petitions.

THEY ARE PROUD to call themselves and one another patriots.

The integration issue has been a rallying point for some of them and has provided a sort of bond

of fellowship. Now has come the John Birch Society with a broader base. The society is concerned with the integration issue as a possible troublemaking tool of the Communists and with the impeachment of U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren — a goal advocated by many segregationists also — but also concerned with big government, high taxes and Communist influences at Vassar College, among other things.

Atlanta restaurateur Lester Maddox, head of segregationist Georgians Unwilling to Surrender, said he is not a Birch member, but "I'm very interested." He noted the names of some of the society's national council members and commented, "You can't say they're rabble, can you?"

THE REPUTATION of some of the men linked with the society is plainly a drawing point. The three Georgians listed as members of a committee of endorsers are successful in their fields.

One of them, Paul K. McKou-

ney Jr. of Columbus, is president of the Georgia Textile Manufacturers Association. He is vice president and comptroller of Swift Manufacturing Co., one of Columbus' largest industries.

Another, Carter Pittman of Dalton, is a lawyer and a frequent writer on constitutional questions. He is a former president of the Georgia States Rights Council. The third is Hugh H. Armstrong of Savannah, a contractor and developer.

Mr. McKenney is a Birch member, and Mr. Armstrong is the co-ordinator for the society's four or five Savannah chapters. Mr. Pittman says he is not a member.

CONTROVERSY about the society has centered principally on attacks by its founder, Robert Welch, on the loyalty of American leaders; its strong views, which equate increased defense spending, federal aid to education and many other items with Communist

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activity, and its secrecy and tactics.

Mrs. H. Dillon Winship of 3770 Peachtree Road, NE, who says she is a member of the Birch home chapter, terms much of what has been published as "horrible reporting."

She says that the society is "the one patriotic group that's going to be able to accomplish anything."

Coming from her, that is praise indeed, for Mrs. Winship is a member of the board of directors of the Church League of America, the organization headed by Edgar Bundy of Wheaton, Ill., and dedicated chiefly to spreading his word about Communist infiltration of the churches.

Mrs. Winship said that she has had a very interesting life since she discovered the Church League of America.

WHEN SHE DID, she journeyed to Wheaton to see Mr. Bundy. She is a believer in checking things herself and advocates that other people do so also.

She said she has checked the John Birch Society "all the way down the line." She knows Mr. Welch, too, having met him "years ago."

Mrs. Winship is sure the society has some members here, but she says the role of a fighter against communism is "frankly quite dangerous" and she would not want to place any persons in hazard by identifying them as members.

"We all over the United States do it as individuals," Mrs. Winship said. "The John Birch Society does not come out and tell me to fight for any set thing at all. The John Birch Society is not interested in half the things I'm interested in."

A MEMBER of the society's staff in Belmont said there are Birch chapters in Atlanta. But he said it is against policy for the headquarters to name names, though individuals may identify themselves as members if they wish.

Mr. Welch, who has invited a congressional investigation of the society, has said none of the

members would take the Fifth Amendment.

He is the originator of the policy of not revealing names of members and it is set forth in the society's "Blue Book," the manual which delineates the organization's ends and means.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

**What Did Comment
About Birch Mean?**

The Editors: It took our new Attorney General (of all things) Bobby Kennedy about five minutes to stammer out about a dozen words to the effect that the John Birch Society is ridiculous, humorous and a hindrance.

He offered no explanation of what he meant. Of course, the words ridiculous and humorous do not particularly cry for explanation, whether aptly employed or not. But his use of the word hindrance did beg explaining.

Did he mean that the anti-Communist John Birch Society is a hindrance to the Department of Justice and the FBI in investigating communism in the United States, or in exposing or bringing to justice any American Communist or group of Communists?

If that is what he meant, in what way is the John Birch Society a hindrance? More important, what has the Department of Justice, including the FBI, done in the past seven years to combat communism inside the United States?

As far as is known to the public, at least, the only meaningful or resultful fight being made against communism inside the nation is the hamstrung one being waged by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

RUDY SIMPSON.

Atlanta.

Perhaps he meant that by the time everyone with a different point of view had been branded "Communist" there would be few left unlabeled to investigate them. Or perhaps he just meant what he

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Birch Unit Helps Reds, Senate Told

WASHINGTON (UPI)— Robert Welch, head of the controversial John Birch Society, was denounced on the Senate floor Wednesday for suggesting the Protestant clergy has been infiltrated by Communists.

Sen. Hale McGee, D-Wyo., told the Senate that Welch's latest charge was a "slurring" attack which was both "ridiculous" and an aid to Communist propaganda. McGee termed members of the conservative society "twisted, distorted, sick people" who he said are "afraid of new ideas, afraid of freedom."

DRAWS SENATE FIRE

Three other senators joined in criticizing Welch and his organization.

Sen. Milton R. Young, R-N.D., first to call the Senate's attention to attacks by the society against former President Eisenhower and other national leaders, placed more material about the group in the Congressional Record.

The material included 15 pages from Welch's book, "The Politician," which embraced his early charge that Eisenhower had been "consciously serving the Communist conspiracy all of his adult life."

CITES IKE ATTACK

Young said that since the book never was formally published, "some members of the society doubt its existence." He said some members are "not aware of the vicious charges in this book."

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield, Mont., supporting Young's stand, told the Senate that Welch's charges of pro-Communism against Eisenhower, his brother, Milton, former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and others would be considered by any American as "a slur on our country."

JAVITS ASKS PROBE

Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., reiterated that he felt the John Birch Society should be investigated by a Senate committee.

McGee, who has spoken against Welch and the Birch Society in previous Senate debate, noted that Welch had observed that while Protestant ministers can't become Communists, Communists "can become Protestant ministers."

"Nothing could be more ridiculous than to believe that students of theology ... the Protestant ministry ... would be handmaidens of the Communist cause," he said.

"Nothing could suit Communist propaganda more completely than to suggest that the Protestant ministry is being infiltrated by Communists."

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**'Non-Member' Hails
 John Birch Society**

Atlanta — Referring to letter from James Fritz Salley appearing in your April 1st issue concerning the John Birch Society:

I do not belong to this society, however, I am familiar with the record of John Birch, also familiar with methods of pro-Communists, fellow-travelers and the Communist Party. The publication edited by Robert Welch, entitled "American Opinion", should be read by every red-blooded patriotic hundred per cent American.

Mr. Birch's mother said she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with Robert Welch's organization and are proud for the society to bear their son's name. They should be. In my opinion this makes Mr. Salley anything but a friend of John Birch.

Who betrayed John Birch into the hands of the Chinese Communists? Why not find out and publish it in your columns?

If doubt Mr. Welch will be investigated, I hope he will be as he is in position to make some people lose sleep.

W. D. FERRIS.
 ...

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Patriots, Birch or Not

By MARGARET SHANNON

The John Birch Society, controversial anti-Communist organization, has won a welcome from industrious watchdogs of the public's patriotism in the Atlanta area.

Lane Mitchell, director of the ceramics department at Georgia Tech, who has made more than 200 speeches in the past two years on the Communist menace, is critical of criticism of the Birch Society.

Dr. Mitchell said he is not a member, but he has obtained and read the literature of the society, including its "Blue Book," in which the founder, Robert Welch states the organization's aims and strategy.

He said he also is a subscriber to "American Opinion," Mr. Welch's monthly magazine. In none of the material, Dr. Mitchell says, has he found any obser-

vations with which any patriot could, in his view, take issue.

DR. MITCHELL said he understands the John Birch Society to be primarily a letter-writing organization and he does not see how anyone can object to such activity on the part of patriots.

Letter-writing campaigns are, as a matter of fact, one of numerous methods set forth by Mr. Welch. Other suggestions include setting up reading rooms, distributing literature, organizing "fronts — little fronts, big fronts, temporary fronts, permanent fronts, all kinds of fronts," circulating petitions, heckling speakers who back programs the society opposes, arranging speaking appointments for Birchers and taking part in politics.

The purpose of the society, as stated in the "Blue Book," is "to promote less government,

more responsibility and a better world," with the immediate objective of "stopping the Communists and destroying their conspiracy, or at least breaking its grip on our government and shattering its power within the United States."

Dr. Mitchell appears not to share Mr. Welch's views on former President Eisenhower as given in a book titled "The Politician," which is not in general circulation.

In "The Politician," the Birch Society founder accuses many top members of the Eisenhower administration of being a part of the Communist conspiracy and adds:

"While I, too, think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct. But my firm belief that Dwight Ei-

senhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

Dr. Mitchell thinks the former President is "a noble gentleman."

MRS. MARTHA ANDREWS, of 692 Sunnybrook Dr., Decatur, executive secretary of the Voice of Liberty, a religious Red hunter, also endorses the John Birchers, though she says she is not one.

Mrs. Andrews says the John Birch Society has attracted interest and admiration among anti-Communist crusaders of her acquaintance in the Atlanta area.

She points out that two radio

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Bircher Says God, Rebellion Combat Reds

An official of the John Birch Society told a group of advertising men Thursday that God and rebellion are the answers to the Communist menace, which he described as existing not just in Russia, but in the United States, too.

Thomas Anderson, publisher of a farm magazine and member of the national council of the

Story on local manifestations of the John Birch Society on Page 10.

highly conservative Birch Society, spoke to a luncheon meeting of the Atlanta Advertising Institute.

AMONG THE things he condemned were foreign aid, the farm program, enslavement of peoples, U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren, personal income tax, U.S. embassy staffers overseas, and Negro singer Sammy Davis Junior.

He came out in favor of J. Edgar Hoover, putting Christ back into Christmas, the right of association, firm faith in God, and the right to vote so long as voters pass intelligence tests.

HE ALSO TOLD the advertising men that he is strongly in favor of the currently controversial John Birch Society.

He called it "the best movement that I've seen to alert Americans to the danger" of socialism.

MR. ANDERSON'S talk often drew laughter and brought applause a couple of times as he compared Washington to an assembly plant for a certain part of a horse's anatomy and recalled a conversation with a U.S. envoy abroad in which he commented on the "pinks, punks and perverts" in the foreign service.

The group quieted when he said that America can be restored to its proper status by "rebellious patriots demanding a return to home rule." He said advertising men in particular can help, since they are in a position of influencing thought.

IN CONCLUSION, he told the advertising men that the love of God will serve to destroy "this organized religion of hate" which he found on a recent four-day trip to Russia.

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ANONYMOUS CALLS NOT NEW

Birch Hecklers at Work?

By MARGARET SHANNON

Some Atlantans who have been subjected to heckling, abusive letters and annoying telephone calls about political, religious or social views think they detect the influence of the John Birch Society here.

For one thing, they see a shift in emphasis from racist to Communist themes. They note a tendency of persons who proclaim themselves to be patriots to consider contrary views disloyal at best and Communistic at worst.

METHODS now being credited, rightly or wrongly, to Birch influence are not new or exclusive with the society and have been used by both sides in many controversies. A much-publicized example here was the suggestion by Roy V. Harris of Augusta, president of the Georgia States Rights Council, for segregationists to

telephone token integrationists and open-schools advocates at all hours day and night to harass them.

Mrs. H. Dillon Winship of 3770 Peachtree Rd., NE, a Birch Society member, insists that Birchers do not indulge in anonymous telephone calls.

"They call up and they give their names and they state their views," she said. "They do not identify themselves as members of the John Birch Society, but that is not necessary."

Robert Welch, the Belmont, Mass., man who founded the society, says in his "Blue Book" that the organization needs "disciplined pullers at the oars and not passengers in the boat."

And he said that while this is reminiscent of the Communist principle of "the dedicated few," the society is "willing to draw on all successful experience in organization matters so long as it does not involve any sacrifice of morality in the means used to achieve an end."

Mr. Welch also has expressed the view that some "mean and dirty" tactics are all right because Communists are meaner and dirtier.

THE BIRCH founder supplements his "Blue Book" suggestions with a monthly bulletin of instructions. In one last September, for example, he urged Birchers to take over the Parent-Teacher Association. He wrote:

"Join your local PTA at the beginning of the school year, get your conservative friends to do likewise and go to work to take it over.

"You will run into real battles against determined leftists who have had everything their way.

"But it is time we went on the offensive to make such groups the instruments of conservative purposes, with the same vigor and determination that the liberals have used with the opposite aims.

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"When you and your friends get the local PTA group straightened out, move up the ladder as soon as you can to exert a wider influence. And don't let the dirty tactics of the opposition get you down."

One Atlanta area PTA got stirred up recently about a talk by a speaker whose subject was billed in advance as an explanation of Communist infiltration of schools, textbooks and the U.S. Supreme Court.

THE SPEAKER was Dr. Henry G. Stelling, a Northside physician whom a Georgia Tech faculty member terms "the epitome of patriotism." Lane Mitchell, director of the Tech ceramics department and a frequent speaker on communism, describes Dr. Stelling in admiration as "a red-headed fellow who gets very excited and really tears into this thing."

After he tore into it at the Liberty-Gunn School PTA, one parent went to the FBI and asked for a check of certain allegations of Communist leanings. He reported at the next PTA meeting that the check did not support the allegations, and the PTA passed a motion regretting "any injury to innocent people and organizations."

REPEATED ATTEMPTS by an Atlanta Journal reporter to arrange to see and talk to Dr. Stelling have failed so far.

The methods and materials used by some of the organizations and individuals here who consider themselves patriotic often are overlapping and duplicating, and it is sometimes difficult for the objects of their objections to know the source.

For instance, Birch head Welch suggests heckling. But Dr. Roy D. McClain, pastor of the First Baptist Church, cannot say for sure whether or not disputants who showed up at some sessions of a recent eight-week Wednesday night seminar he taught on communism and Christianity are Birch members, followers of fundamentalist radio evangelists or unattached zealots.

OCCASIONALLY even the patriots themselves become confused. One woman whose anti-Communist activities are aimed mainly at religion and integration was high in praise of a woman who, she said, was the backbone of opposition to a visit here by Dr. Edwin Dahlberg, immediate past president of the National Council of Churches. The first lady accused Dr. Dahlberg of Communist leanings.

Yes, indeed, said the second lady, she did oppose the Dahlberg visit. He was going to speak at her church, the First Baptist, and she knew the meeting would be integrated, since it was sponsored by the United Church Women, and sure enough it was integrated, and she is a segregationist.

What about Dr. Dahlberg, "I don't think he is a Communist," she said. "He's a minister, and—well, I just don't want integration in my church. If they're going to let them in during the week, they ought to do it on Sunday. Ought to be consistent about it."

One of the most vocal groups opposing the National Council of Churches is the Church League of America, whose Atlanta chapter is headed by Mrs. Winship, a member of the league's national board of directors. Mrs. Winship was active in the church league before she became a John Birchler and continues active in it.

The First Baptist Church was flooded with telephone calls protesting Dr. Dahlberg's appearance, and one anti-Dahlberg note showed up in the collection plate at the meeting where he spoke, an observance of the World Day of Prayer.

THE MORE VOCAL of the self-designated patriots are not averse to naming organizations and even individuals whose loyalty to God and country they question and they are great on documenting their charges.

An examination of their documentation shows that they resort frequently to published materials which themselves are not documented. They quote freely from authorities, who in turn quote them as authorities.

* * *

Welch Can't 'Put Up' And He Can't Admit It

Robert Welch of the John Birch Society says there are 7,000 Communists or Communist sympathizers in the Protestant clergy.

A Methodist bishop says if there are the church will get rid of them. He asks Welch to supply him the names. He asks him in these words: "Get specific or else admit that you don't know what you are talking about."

Welch can't get specific because he doesn't know what he is talking about. But he can't admit he doesn't know what he is talking about and continue to be invited to lecture. So here's what he'll do. He'll make another charge—there are 7,000 Communists in the Boy Scouts or there are 7,000 Communists in the AFL-CIO or there are 7,000 Communists in the American Dental Association.

Americans are fond of the expression "put up or shut up." In a free society people can say what they will. When what they say is nonsense, when they don't "put up," American audiences see through them.

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Georgia's Birch Backers

By MARGARET SHANNON

The three Georgians listed as members of a committee of endorsers of the John Birch Society include one who is very active in the organization, one who belongs, but is not actively promoting it and one who does not belong.

Dalton lawyer Carter Pittman, former president of the Georgia States Rights Council, is not a member and was placed on the committee of endorsers without his prior knowledge or consent.

"I discovered it in the Congressional Record after somebody told me about it," Mr. Pittman said, "but I wouldn't repudiate it even if I didn't know about it beforehand."

MR. PITTMAN said he has had some correspondence with Robert Welch, the retired Belmont, Mass., candy manufacturer who founded the society and named it for a Georgian.

That Georgian, John Birch, is dead, but his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Birch, live on a farm near Macon. Mrs. Birch says she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with the organization "and we are proud for it to bear our son's name."

John Birch was a Baptist preacher who became a missionary to China and later served as an intelligence officer in World War II. He was killed in a Chinese village 10 days after V-J Day in 1945. Five years later, then Sen. William Knowland, California Republican, charged in a Senate speech that Chinese Communists had murdered him. He was 27 when he died.

None of the Georgia endorsers of the society appears to have been attracted to it, however, by the Georgia background of the man for whom it was named.

Mr. Pittman is particularly interested in the Birch Society campaign for impeachment of U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren. The Dalton lawyer helped to write a Warren impeachment resolution adopted by the Georgia General Assembly in 1957.

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LATER he filed with the U.S. Senate internal security subcommittee a brief expanding the list of legal citations given in the resolution to support the contention that Justice Warren should be impeached.

Mr. Pittman says the John Birch Society now cites the materials prepared by him. He attributes the effectiveness of the society to its Warren impeachment move.

"They've got a letter-writing campaign on to congressmen to impeach Warren," Mr. Pittman said. "I don't think Warren can be impeached, but I think the campaign for it can help. It already has. I read somewhere the other day that it looks like Earl Warren has run under the bed."

"This impeachment campaign is good. An institution will die unless you give the members something to do, and Welch is smart enough to give them (John Birch Society members) something to do."

Mr. Pittman said "a good many members of the society" write him. He said after he noticed that his mail about the Birch Society began to increase, he wrote for literature about it.

ANOTHER of the Georgia endorsers of the society, Paul K. McKenney Jr., a Columbus textile executive, is a member of the home chapter at Belmont, Mass., and he says is not actively promoting it in the Columbus area. He said that so far as he knows there are no chapters in Columbus.

Mr. McKenney said he has known Mr. Welch on a personal basis for some years and has a high regard for him. He said he also has "similar feelings" about socialistic and Communistic trends.

The Columbus businessman said he finds interest in the conservative cause espoused by the Birch Society picking up. He cited as one evidence "the outstanding amount of attention given to Sen. Goldwater."

MR. WELCH has said Sen. Barry Goldwater, the Arizona Republican, would make a fine president. But at the December, 1958, meeting in Indianapolis that started the society off, he rejected Sen. Goldwater as a possible head of the organization and nominated himself.

"Does anybody in this room think there is any slightest chance of Barry Goldwater supplying the dynamic over-all leadership needed to save this country for anybody to be president of?" he said. "If so, I think he is still not fully aware of the nature and totality of the forces at work. For Goldwater will inevitably think and move in terms of political warfare."

Mr. Welch then suggested himself as head of the society.

FROM THAT meeting, a two-day affair to which a dozen men invited by Mr. Welch came, the John Birch Society began. It now has chapters in at least 34 states, has members in 50 states and aims at 100,000 membership by the end of this year.

The third Georgia member of the committee of endorsers is Hugh H. Armstrong, a Savannah builder. He is active in the society as its coordinator there.

Mr. Armstrong says Savannah has five or six chapters with 14 to 25 members each.

He also says that Savannah members "strongly endorse the loyalty and integrity of former President Eisenhower," whom Mr. Welch has referred to as a conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy.

Mr. Armstrong said members do not have to agree 100 per cent with Mr. Welch, but if they don't share most of his views, they ought to get out of the society.

HOW MUCH disagreement Mr. Welch will brook remains to be seen. In the "Blue Book," the guidebook of the society, he makes it clear that he intends to exercise authoritative control and expects loyalty.

"The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels," he says. "The men who join the John Birch Society during the next few months or few years are going to be doing so because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway."

"Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out before they build up any spirit following of their own inside the society."

Mr. Welch was born in North Carolina in 1899. He moved to Boston in 1919 and was in the candy manufacturing business until his retirement. The firm of which he was vice president in charge of sales and advertising had a subsidiary sales corporation in Atlanta.

Birch Founder To Speak Here

Robert Welch, founder and head of the arch-conservative, anti-Communist John Birch Society, will speak in Atlanta next Friday, according to sources acquainted with the society's doings.

Mrs. H. Dillon Winship of 3770 Peachtree Road, N.E., reported in charge of arrangements for his visit, could not be reached for confirmation of the time and place of his talk.

The society's national headquarters in Belmont, Mass., said it was not giving out any information on the Welch visit here. "It's all being handled by our people in Atlanta," a staff member said.

MR. WELCH, a 61-year-old retired candy manufacturer, started the society in December, 1958,

and named it for a Georgian, an intelligence officer and former missionary who was killed in China 10 days after the Japanese surrender in 1945.

The Birch Society has so far undisclosed strength in Atlanta.

(Related stories on Pages 15 and 17.)

The national headquarters says it has chapters here, but as a matter of policy will not name any of the Atlanta leaders or members.

Dr. Lane Mitchell, director of the ceramics department at Georgia Tech, who says he approves of the society although not a member, said the Welch meeting will be "open," with a \$1 admission charge.

—MARGARET SHANNON.

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RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
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AT File: 100-5557-23

2cc Bur.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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FBI - ATLANTA	

b7C

Birch Head Again Attacks Clergy

Cites 'Principle of Reversal': Reds Unlikely in Pulpit, Therefore Prevalent

SHREVEPORT, La., April 20 (P)—The founder of the right wing John Birch society has again charged that Communists have infiltrated the Protestant clergy in the United States.

Robert Welch, retired Massachusetts candy maker who organized the ultra-conservative group, charged in a copyrighted speech here Wednesday night that "the largest single body of Communists in America is in our Protestant clergy."

Welch made a one-night stop in Shreveport on his speaking tour of the Southwest. He spoke one hour and 45 minutes to a crowd estimated at 2,000.

The speech dealt with what Welch called the "principle of reversal" being used by the Communists. He said the principle is at work among Protestant clergymen "because that is almost the last place the ordinary American would expect to find them."

WELCH HAS made similar charges in previous speeches.

"Protestant ministers do not become Communists, but Communists become Protestant ministers," Welch said.

He also said Communists have "heavily influenced all major decisions in our government since 1941."

BUT THE Birch Society chief-tain said he wanted to let written statements he made about

American leaders being Communist stooges "fade out of the picture."

"I think it would be better for all concerned to let it fade out of the argument—fade out of the picture—and that is what I intend to do as quickly as possible."

The written statements attacked former President Eisenhower and other high officials. Welch termed them "harsh words" in his speech here.

He accused the press of misquoting him and setting "completely false statements in my mouth."

He charged he was recently misquoted at Santa Barbara, Calif., concerning the Birch Society's stand on the racial question. He said he was quoted as saying the group opposed forced segregation but that he actually said it was against forced integration.

HE MADE the same comment in a brief interview on his arrival here yesterday afternoon from Houston, Tex.

In the interview, he declined to comment on any subject but his views on the racial question.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-27-84 BY 60290 BCF/10072K

The Atlanta Journal
April 20, 1961
Editor: JACK SPALDING
RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS-C
AT File: 100-5857

100-5857-56

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 21 1961	
FBI - ATLANTA	

b7C

Welch Speecl An Invitation Affair Here

John Birch Society founder Robert Welch's speech here at 8 p.m. Friday will be at Elks Club No. 78 at 736 Peachtree St., NE, and it will be to an invited audience.

Terry Whitman, Atlanta area coordinator, said the inviting is being done by him and other Birch members and by other persons and groups they have asked.

Mr. Whitman said Mr. Welch will not hold a press conference while here and his speech won't be generally open to the press, but some of the inviters might happen to invite reporters and that would be all right.

He said he didn't consider that the society was barring the press.

MR. WHITMAN said the Elks Club room in which Mr. Welch will speak will hold 450 to 500 persons. He said another room is available where Mr. Welch could be heard by loudspeaker, but not seen.

He said he'd asked inviters to cut down their lists after the speech was shifted from the Atlanta Athletic Club, which could have accommodated 800.

Mr. Whitman said he has had inquiries from out of town and has been embarrassed to tell people they may not be able to get in. He said some space may be available if all invitees don't show up. A \$1 fee will be charged.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-04 BY 40060290 BCC/PCP/SLK

The Atlanta Journal
April 20, 1961
Editor: JACK SPALDING
RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS-C
AT file: 100-5857

100-5857-17

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FBI - ATLANTA	

2 cc Bur.

b7C

Elks Club Cancels Welch Speech Here

An Atlanta Elks lodge canceled the appearance of John Birch Society founder Robert Welch in its hall Thursday because the society is too controversial.

Lodge No. 78 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks took the action in a letter to Terry Whitman, an Atlanta salesman who has been acting as local coordinator for the conservative society. The speech was to have taken place Friday night at the lodge's hall at 736 Peachtree NE.

John W. Brinsfield, exalted ruler of Lodge 78, said in a special delivery, registered letter to Mr. Whitman mailed Thursday afternoon:

"The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a patriotic, American fraternal order and is non-political and will not allow any controversial organization to hold a meeting in our building."

MR. WHITMAN, informed of this, said he would have no comment until he sees the letter or hears officially about the action.

It was the second shift in plans

for Mr. Welch, the Massachusetts native who now heads a nationwide society dedicated to ultraconservatism and the eradication of what the group calls socialism in America.

Mr. Welch originally was scheduled to speak in an open meeting at the Atlanta Athletic Club. But the club canceled the appearance, saying publicly that an open meeting would conflict with its position as a private club.

THE ELKS' decision came as some members of the fraternal organization were talking about taking action to keep the Birch leader out of their hall.

Morris Manheim Jr., past exalted ruler of the lodge, said earlier Thursday that several members wanted to propose, at Thursday night's regular meeting, that Mr. Welch find accommodations elsewhere.

"I don't think that it is the consensus of the membership," he said, "that a member of the Birch Society should speak in the Elks Club, which is dedicated to Americanism." (Earlier story on Page 19.)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-94 BY 60491 BCL/TJF

The Atlanta Journal

April 20, 1961

Editor: JACK SPALDING

RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS-C

AT File: 100-5857

100-5857-58

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b7C

Close-up

There's a Better and Cheaper Way

As this is written Thursday afternoon Robert Welch of the John Birch Society has no place to speak when he arrives here Friday night. The Elks have just become the second organization to withdraw an offer of a hall.

Mr. Welch, of course, should be allowed to speak here. People who think they shouldn't "dignify" Welch by allowing him the use of respectable facilities are mistaken. Nothing can dignify a bad idea, just as nothing can prevent a good idea from being heard.

Proscription is not the way to handle Mr. Welch. Neither is ridicule, which is the attorney general's suggestion. Ridicule leaves unanswered the question of why people listen to Welch.

They listen to him for two reasons. They are afraid of Communists. They want a simple, single culprit for all the day's complexities. Fear of communism can be replaced by alertness to it very simply, by learning exactly what it is. Once we know what it is, we learn what it isn't. When we know what it



isn't we know not to blame everything we don't like—the Supreme Court, taxes, treaties—on Reds. That's the first step toward understanding the complicated state of the world today.

When the submarine Skate prepared to go on a long, under-the-pole voyage, it gave great thought to selecting a library. It had to be small and it had to be good. It could only include 10 titles in its political section. Five of those 10 will tell you about all you need to know of communism. They are: Crossman's The God That Failed, Hoover's Masters of Deceit, Koestler's Darkness at Noon, Orwell's Animal Farm and the Overstreets' What We Must Know About Communism.

(Communism isn't the only -ism that Americans need to be alert to. Reading about fascism is also a valuable pastime for Americans. The first part of Shirer's Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, chapters 1-12 of Schlesinger's Politics of Upheaval, Rove's biography of Joe McCarthy and It Can't Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis remind us that it could happen even here.)

All these books can be checked out of the public library for nothing. Welch charges a dollar.—TED LIPPMAN.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/17/04 BY 60290 BCE/1047PK

The Atlanta Constitution
April 21, 1961
Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON
RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS-C
AT File: 100-5857

2 re Bur.

100-5857-57

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b7C

Welch Finds Secret Place For Talk as Elks Say 'No'

By FRED POWLEDGE

Birch Society founder Robert Welch was due in Atlanta Friday night for a speech, but it will be to a small group in an undisclosed place.

One of the local leaders of the ultra-conservative group said it will be a meeting "by special invitation only." He said the audience would be "very small," that he didn't even know who would attend, and that he could not say where Mr. Welch will speak.

The last-day switch in plans was necessary because two Atlanta organizations—the Elks Lodge No. 78 and the Atlanta Athletic Club—decided that Mr. Welch could not

use their facilities to speak to Atlantans.

Terry Whitman, an Atlanta sales representative who acts as Georgia Birch coordinator, confirmed Friday morning that the Elks club date was off and that Mr. Welch would address a small group at an undisclosed place.

"I'm very sad," said Mrs. H. D. Winship, one of the Atlantans who has been making arrangements for Mr. Welch's appearance. "The speech is canceled. This is the only city in the United States that has done this."

ASKED WHERE Mr. Welch will make his appearance to the small

group, she replied: "If we knew, I wouldn't tell you." Then she said "I know all about it; but I don't intend to give it to the press."

THE CANCELLATION came after Atlanta Elks Lodge No. 78 decided to refuse the use of its hall on Peachtree Street on the grounds that the speaker and his society are "controversial."

The fraternal order sent a letter to this effect Thursday to Mr. Whitman. At the regular lodge meeting Thursday night, about 100 members voted unanimously to back up the letter because of the "controversial nature" of the society.

It was the second such setback for the society in Atlanta. Mr. Welch, who is on a nationwide speaking tour, was originally scheduled to speak at the Atlanta Athletic Club. That reservation was canceled when it became known that he was to be the speaker.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-84 BY *me/2000 BCF/KC/JSK*

The Atlanta Journal
April 21, 1961
Editor: JACK SPALDING
RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS-C
AT File: 100-5857

100-5752-60

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The club said officially that an open meeting would conflict with its status as a private club.

Mrs. Winship, an outspoken foe of what she calls communism and socialism in America and a worker for the Birch cause, said she was sad at the treatment the speaker is receiving from Atlanta.

Mrs. Winship said the Atlanta newspapers, which she characterized as wanting to crucify the society and its founder, were to blame for the cancellations. She said the newspapers had been asked not to write any stories about Mr. Welch's scheduled talk to some 800 invited listeners.

She added that she felt it was a sad comment on "my Atlanta and my Georgia" that Mr. Welch not be accommodated on his visit. "Even a Communist is permitted to speak here," she said. "They are encouraged to speak here."

The Elks adopted the following resolution at their Thursday night lodge meeting:

"Whereas, it has come to our attention through the Atlanta press that a representative of Atlanta Lodge 78, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, indicated that the John Birch Society could hold a meeting in our home upon the payment of a fee for the use of a meeting room;

"Whereas, our facilities have never been used by any organization of a controversial nature and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, being a charitable and patriotic fraternal order pledged to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, and to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; and,

"Whereas, we have no information regarding the character of the John Birch Society except the different views read in the public press,

"It is therefore resolved that Atlanta Lodge No. 78 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks hereby affirms and approves of the action of the exalted ruler, John W. Brinsfield, of our lodge, in canceling the meeting of the said John Birch Society in our quarters."

2cc Bur.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-04 BY *am 6040 BCE/KCL/PK*

Elks Refuse Hall For Birch Leader

Atlanta Elks Lodge 78 officials Thursday banned the use of their hall by John Birch Society founder Robert Welch, who had been scheduled to speak there Friday evening.

Members of the society could not be reached Thursday night to determine if a new site had been found.

The action by the Elks was the second cancellation of Welch's Atlanta meeting. The Belmont, Mass., candy manufacturer was originally scheduled to speak at an open meeting at the Atlanta Athletic Club. The club canceled his appearance, saying that an open meeting would conflict with its position as a private club.

The Elks announced the can-

cellation in a letter to Terry Whitman, a real estate salesman who has been acting as Atlanta area coordinator for the ultraconservative society.

The Elks' letter said the order "is a patriotic, American fraternal order and is non-political and will not allow any controversial organization to hold a meeting in our building."

Whitman could not be contacted late Thursday night for comment. No new site of the meeting had been announced by early Wednesday morning.

The Atlanta Constitution
April 21, 1961
Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON
RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS-C
AT File: 100-5857

100-5857-41

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FBI — ATLANTA	

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7,000 Pastors Are Reds, Welch Says

By REG MURPHY

Constitution Political Editor

The founder of the John Birch Society told some 300 Georgians—including Birch's parents—Friday night that Communists have infiltrated church pulpits and national government in dangerous numbers.

Founder Robert Welch, retired Belmont, Mass., businessman estimated 7,000 American Protestant preachers (3 per cent of the total Protestant clergy) are active in Communist work.

WHERE THEY ARE

Although "I don't think the Communists yet have anywhere near 3 per cent of the government employees," Welch said, "the vital question is not how many Communists there are but where they are."

He asserted that many of them are in the "top echelons" of the national government.

Mr. and Mrs. George Birch of Macon, retired missionaries, sat in front-row pews in the North Atlanta Baptist Church.

Also present were Walter E. Birch of Macon and Dr. Herbert W. Birch of Decatur, brothers of the Baptist minister and serviceman, who was killed in China 10 days after the end of World War II.

The society which has taken the Birch name is a controversial ultra-conservative organization.

Admission to the meeting was by invitation, organizers said. But some of the crowd that nearly filled the church did not present invitations.

FAR LESS HERE

Welch said, "The percentage (of Communist clergymen) is far less in this part of the country than in other parts. . . . Protestant ministers do not become

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DATE 2-18-04 BY am 60290 BCG/nc/pk

The Atlanta Constitution
April 22, 1961

Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON

RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

IS-C

AT File: 100-5857

100-5857-62

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Communists, but Communists do become Protestant ministers."

The cancellation of two meetings before the Birch Society lined up the church auditorium was "amazing and annoying," he said. His one hour and forty-minute speech, which is copyrighted, was delivered to a nearly full house of cheering listeners.

"Nothing like this situation in Atlanta has happened anywhere else at all. This is the only place we have had any trouble whatsoever" in getting a hall, Welch said.

The efforts to "destroy" the late Sen. Joe McCarthy are "the same nonsense which is being peddled against the John Birch Society today," Welch said.

Welch said McCarthy, the late Sen. Robert A. Taft and other foes of communism have been destroyed in America by the use of catch-phrases.

For example, he said that Taft "unquestionably" would have won (1952) one of the greatest land-slides in American political history if the Communists had not coined the phrase, "I like Taft, but he can't win."

In defending McCarthy and Taft, Welch said, "With minor exceptions there was nothing wrong with McCarthy's methods from the point of view of a patriotic American."

The loudest applause seemed to greet that statement and one referring to where Communists are found: "I can find you a lot more Harvard accents in Communist circles today than you can find me in overalls."

Welch said, "Communism has always been imposed from the top down, by the very rich, the highly educated and the political-

ly powerful, on the suffering masses."

Much of his speech was devoted to an explanation of his "concept of the principle of reversal."

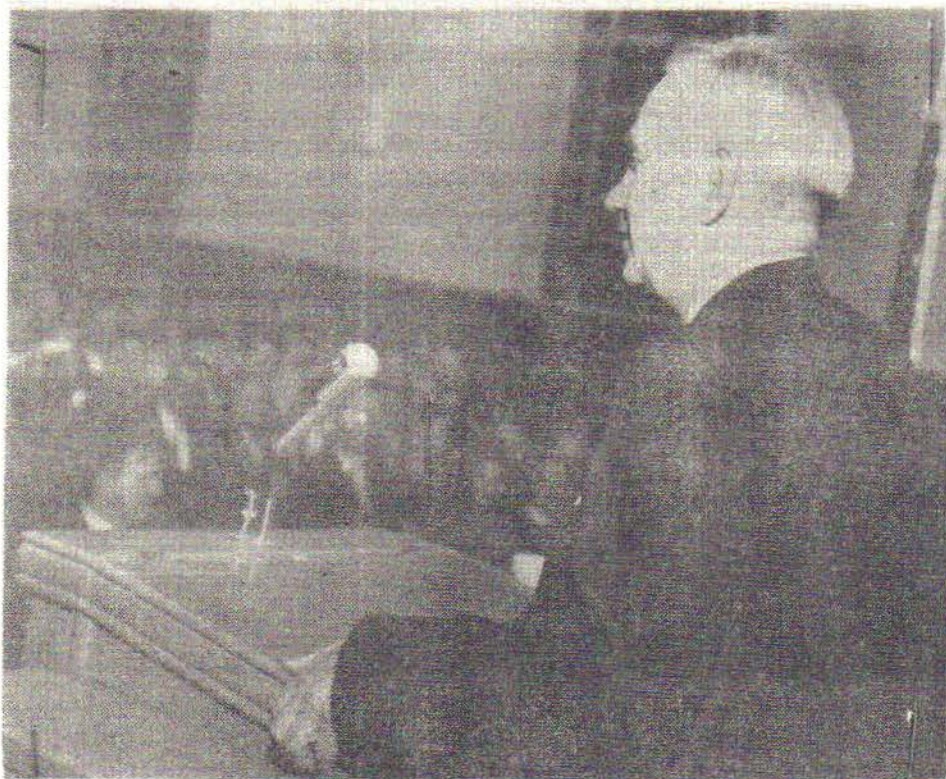
That principle deals with the theory that the Communists give a relatively small amount of ground to obtain their main objective.

An example, Welch said, was the phrase which was used to elect the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940.

Roosevelt had made it clear that if he won a third term in the White House "he would bring the U.S. into war as soon as possible."

That suited Soviet Russia's purposes, because they wanted to become allies with the Democratic powers, so they said, "I can't stand Roosevelt but we must support him because of his foreign policy."

He was introduced by Terry Whitman, an Atlantan who helped organize the meeting. Whitman said of Welch, "A number of years ago he retired from business to devote his life to saving his country."



Staff Photo—Charles Fugh

LEADER OF JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY MAKES ATLANTA ADDRESS

Robert H. Welch Jr. Speaks at North Atlanta Baptist Church

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (100-5857)

DATE: 4/24/61

FROM :

SA [redacted]

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INTERNAL SECURITY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-18-94 BY 60290 BCG/TCB/DK

On 4/16/61, [redacted]
[redacted] Atlanta, Ga., made available the following
literature to [redacted] which she states came
from [redacted], Atlanta,
the previous week.

[redacted] who is a [redacted] of the writer, and
is [redacted] Parent Teachers Association
(PTA) in the neighborhood, advised that [redacted] is a member
of the PTA and that her only knowledge of [redacted] is that she
attends PTA occasionally. She is of the opinion that [redacted]
[redacted] is an artist by profession but apparently is devoting
his full time to the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. [redacted] said that
[redacted] called upon her at her home on two occasions and
on the second occasion left the following literature which she
claimed she didn't want and was making it available to the
writer. [redacted] was also of the opinion that [redacted]
was attempting to solicit her help in "The Fight of Communism".
[redacted] informed that she did not know of any particular
reason why [redacted] chose to leave the material with her
except that it might be that both she, [redacted] and her
husband actively associated in the field of education in Georgia,
both being former professors. Set out below is the literature
which makes numerous quotes out of contacts from speeches
of the Director:

- (1) A three page mimeograph paper entitled
GOD AND COUNTRY OR COMMUNISM? by J.
Edgar Hoover. Excerpts taken from a
reprint of a feature article in the
American Mercury, dated December, 1957;

- (2) Tax Fax No. 27, pamphlet entitled
DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION,
IMPEACH EARL WARREN?
This pamphlet purports to be a documented
record of Chief Justice EARL WARREN'S
Pro-Communist rulings.

AMR:lab
(2)

lab

100-5857-63

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AT 100-5857

- (3) Tax Fax No. 12. A Pamphlet captioned DO YOU OWN PROPERTY? URBAN RENEWAL. A Socialist Scheme to Confiscate Private Property.
- (4) Tax Fax No. 29. A pamphlet entitled DO YOU WANT FEDERAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION? What Federal Aid to Education Really Means.
- (5) A one page pamphlet captioned THE FEDERALIZATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS - THE ORGANIZERS, PROMOTERS, AND THE OBJECTIVE, by HERBERT S. PHILLIPS, Attorney, 606 Wallace S. Bldg., Tampa, Florida.
- (6) A 16 page booklet captioned "INSIDE THE COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY.

b7C

[redacted] is not aware of an active group of The JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY in the area, however, in the event she obtains any information indicating the presence of such a group, she would notify the writer.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (100-5857)

DATE: 4/21/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING - IS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/14/04 BY 60290 ECE/1007X

On April 20, 1961, Col. [REDACTED] U. S. Army (Retired), [REDACTED], Atlanta, Georgia, a personal friend of SA [REDACTED] advised that he had a friend named [REDACTED] who [REDACTED] a Shell Service Station at [REDACTED], Atlanta, and who had some information which he desired to relay to the FBI.

On the same date, [REDACTED] Shell Service Station, [REDACTED] was interviewed and advised as follows:

For several months a man by the name of [REDACTED] who resides [REDACTED], has been stopping at his service station for tire work and general servicing of his automobile. [REDACTED] while waiting for work to be done, at various times has given [REDACTED] literature regarding segregation in Georgia and literature reflecting views to the effect that the present U. S. Government is socialistic in nature and that not enough is being done to fight Communism. [REDACTED] has also identified himself as being a member of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, and is presently working with LESTER MADDOX, who owns the Pickrick Cafeteria in connection with the SOCIETY's work.

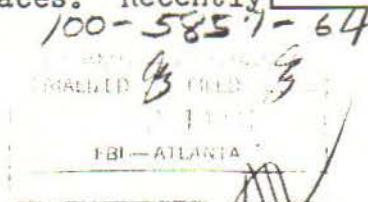
b7C

[REDACTED] felt that [REDACTED] has acted peculiarly in regard to his expressing his extreme views concerning segregation and the fight against Communism.

[REDACTED] is presently self-employed and operates some type of photographic work out of his own home which [REDACTED] described as a \$30,000 to \$35,000 home. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that approximately six or seven months ago, he, [REDACTED] resigned his job to engage in self-employment. [REDACTED] stated that he believes that [REDACTED] distributes literature to people in the Atlanta area, as well as in other places. Recently [REDACTED] traveled to Savannah.

1 ATLANTA

TJB:bbs
(1)



AT 100-5857

[] stated that he had received some literature which had been mimeographed by [] himself at his home. The last time that [] saw [] was about the middle of April, 1961, at which time [] was looking forward to the visit of JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY president WELCH. Also he was planning, with LESTER MADDOX, arrangements for a speaker from the SOCIETY to follow in WELCH's footsteps in the near future.

b7C

Praises God, Rebellion, John Birch Society

Farm Publisher Tells Advertising Men
How to Fight Menace of Communism

By FRED POWLEDGE

An official of the John Birch Society told an Atlanta audience that God, rebellion and conservatism are the answers to the Communist menace.

Thomas Anderson, publisher of a farm magazine and member of the society's national council,

(Birch Society has Georgia advisers—Page 17.)

spoke Thursday at a meeting of the Atlanta Advertising Institute. He condemned foreign aid, the farm program, Chief Justice Earl Warren, personal income tax, members of the U.S. foreign service, liberals, federal aid to most everything and Negro entertainer Sammy Davis Jr.

He said he believes in J. Edgar Hoover, putting Christ back into Christmas, freedom of association, "right to work" laws, firm faith in God, home rule, urban renewal if the cities pay for it themselves, and the right to vote so long as the voters pass intelligence tests.

AND THE JOHN BIRCH Society. He called the conservative organization "the best movement that I've seen to alert Americans to the danger" of socialism.

He gave conditional approval to Ezra Taft Benson, the former secretary of agriculture, but he indicated that sometimes even Mr. Benson worried him.

Mr. Anderson, who is editor and publisher of Farm and Ranch magazine, toured the Soviet Union for four days last year with Secretary Benson and a group of farm writers.

He said Thursday that he found in Russia an "organized religion of hate" which can be fought only by the love of God.

REBELLION ALSO should be used to cure the ills of the United States, he said. He said the country can be returned to its proper status by "rebellious patriots demanding a return to home rule." Advertising men, particularly, can help because they mold opinion, he said.

Mr. Anderson often drew on humor to support his contentions, and the advertising men responded with laughter.

In listing what he was "for" and "against," for instance, he said he was "for Sammy Davis Jr. as our first nigger man" and "for Earl Warren—for impeachment."

He said he was definitely for J. Edgar Hoover, "who can catch Communists faster than the Supreme Court can turn them loose."

Mr. Anderson used as his text part of a speech he delivered Sept. 8, 1960, at a meeting of the Northwest Power Association in Glacier Park, Mont.

HE DID NOT, however, use a portion of the Glacier Park speech which noted that "Because of what we stand for, at Farm and Ranch we are constantly being sniped at by our socialistic competitor, by a few socialists in advertising agencies."

He did say that he was struck on his visit to Russia by the lack of advertising billboards along the highways.

Mr. Anderson also deleted a sentence from the Glacier Park speech which said, "The socialistic talking machine from Minnesota, Hubert Humphrey, and so-called right-winger Herman Talmadge are reportedly brewing a new Brannan plan for the (current) Congress."

He retained a paragraph in which he quoted Sen. Talmadge as saying there would be 100 per cent socialism and a 20-cent dollar in America in 25 years.

The Atlanta Journal

April 14, 1961

Editor: JACK SPALDING

RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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File: 100-5857

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7/16/64 BY *am 602908cy/tcc/DK*

BIRCH AT MERCER: A PARALLEL

By GEORGE A. DOSS JR.
MACON, Ga. (UPI)—John Mor-
rison Birch, as a ministerial stu-
dent here 22 years ago, was a
holder of extremely controversial
views just as is the ultra-conserv-
ative society bearing his name to-
day.

Birch was leader of a secret
fellowship group of "fundamental-
ist" students who sought to purge
Mercer University of five faculty
members. The students charged
the professors with teaching
heretical doctrines on the Baptist
campus.

The faculty members were

cleared at a hearing before mem-
bers of the board of trustees. Po-
lice escorted Birch and his fellow
fundamentalists from the campus
the night of March 30, 1939, for
their own safety.

Robert Welch, founder of the
John Birch Society in 1958, did
not know John Birch in 1939 or
at any time prior to his death at
the hands of Chinese Communist
guerrillas in 1945, 10 days after
V-J Day.

If Welch was aware of Birch,
inspired charges against the Mer-
cer faculty members and the sub-
sequent hearing, he did not men-

tion it in his book, "The Life of
John Birch," published in 1954.
He reported only that Birch re-
ceived his bachelor of arts degree
magna cum laude in 1939 and
went on to the Bible Baptist
Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., to
prepare himself to go to China as
a missionary in 1940.

Nonetheless, a similarity exists
between the charges by Welch
and some Protestant clergymen
that some prominent persons as
former President Eisenhower and
Chief Justice Earl Warren are
Communists or their dupes and
accusations by Birch's student

group that "all denominational
institutions are reeking with
heresy."

Welch says he first heard of
Birch while reading a congres-
sional committee hearing report
dealing with his death. He says
Birch was the first uniformed
American casualty of World War
III; that he was killed by the
Communists "at the first oppor-
tunity after the war because of
the powerful resistance he would
have been able to inspire against
them."

Birch's mother, Mrs. George S.
Birch of Macon, said in an inter-

The Atlanta Journal and

The Atlanta Constitution
April 23, 1961

Editor: JOEL HUFF

RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS-C I

AT File: 100-5857

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view as long ago as 1950 that she believed her son gave his life in an effort to warn Americans of the danger from Communists, and that his warning was deliberately kept from the public by government censorship.

Three former Army intelligence officers who served with Birch or investigated his death have agreed in recent statements that he was killed when he tried to bluff his way out of a difficult situation while on a mission in Communist-held territory. They differ as to whether Birch, a mis-

sionary turned OSS captain, died a hero.

Birch was not generally regarded a hero by the Mercer University student body at the time of the heresy trial he inspired. One of the placards displayed on the campus at the time read, "Lynch Saint Birch."

According to Dr. Spright Dowell, Mercer president emeritus who was head of the institution at the time, the heresy attack was aimed primarily at Dr. John D. Freeman, 55-year-old head of the Christianity department. He was, in the words of the committee which investigated the charges, a man who "for 50 years . . . has

been a Baptist preacher and teacher, a man greatly beloved, a leader among the Baptists of the world and one who through the years has been regarded as a conservative in his theology."

Dr. Dowell noted in his book, "A history of Mercer University," published in 1958, that only three of the complaining students were in classes taught by Dr. Freeman. "Twenty of their classmates resented the attack and voluntarily stated . . . that Dr. Freeman's teaching was 'doctrinally sound, spiritually sane and genuinely Christian'."

Dr. Freeman resigned shortly

after the heresy trials and died in 1943.

Birch and his 12 associates, a fundamentalist minority among approximately 60 ministerial students at the school, sent letters to 1,000 Baptist ministers in Georgia leveling the charges against the faculty members. The students charged the professors with saying, among other things, "There were no such persons as Adam and Eve"; "You do not have to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved"; "The Bible contradicts itself"; "It was not necessary for Christ to die to free man from sin," and "the Bible was not divinely inspired."

Methodist Church Called 'the Reddist'

Atlanta — Relative to Atlanta Journal and Constitution's contribution to the John Birch Society, etc. The Liberal, Progressive and Pro Communist Press in America is doing a wonderful publicity and public relations job for the John Birch Society that would cost us millions of dollars otherwise. So Ralfie Boy, Patterson, and others keep on pouring it on and we will arrive at the million number — million dollar goal much sooner than you think.

Relative to asinine editorial Saturday's Constitution, "Welch Can't Put Up," Methodist Church Bishops have known for years names of leading Reds in their midst and have done absolutely NOTHING about it. The Methodist Federation for social (Communist) action contains the names of these Reds on its Rolls. Nothing has been done about this. I was formerly a Methodist and became nauseated to point of leaving it when it became apparent they would do nothing about it.

The Methodist Church is the Reddist of the Protestant Denominations and are turning out thousands of new Reds each year from its schools and theological "cemeteries." Next in is the American Friends with their Social Service Committee. There are Reds or fellow travelers in the others as well. In fact there is at least one in the local Baptists who's column appears in Constitution and who follows the Communist party line regularly in it.

The patriotic Americans are not fighting youth, schools, churches, labor or government or press. We are fighting the Communists in them and shall continue to do so.

THOMAS SWANSON.

P. S. I am not a member but a prospective member John Birch Society.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

Welch Is Not Like Sen. McCarthy

The Editors: I doubt that your comparing Robert Welch to the late Sen. McCarthy will brainwash many into that fallacy.

Witch-hunter McCarthy was a ruthless egotist, who could not have helped the cause of communism more if he had been on the party's payroll. His methods were so self-seeking and repugnant to American patriots that they mistakenly began shrinking from the thought of exposing Communists. His methods destroyed our alertness and our sense of duty in regard to fighting a very real evil that threatens America. The Communists love him.

Robert Welch is no publicity seeker. Apparently he has sacrificed much more materially than he has gained. He is not helping the cause of communism, nor do the Communists love him. . . .

This the left-wing press knows and abhors, because the John Birch Society is no threat to America but to communism inside America. So the left-wing press will intensify its propaganda to discredit Welch and the Society, and to use Welch as it used McCarthy to combat anti-communism.

RUDY SIMPSON.

Atlanta.

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Congressmn Urge Birch Society Quiz

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A Republican senator and a Democratic congressman called Sunday for an investigation of the John Birch Society.

Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, R-N.Y., and Rep. John F. Shelley, D-Calif., said Congress should look into the anti-Communist organization. Keating pointed out that some members of the Birch Society had asked Congress for an inquiry.

The New York Republican said the Senate internal security subcommittee should conduct the investigation. If this committee thinks it lacks jurisdiction, a special inquiry should be made, Keating said.

The senator called for the investigation on his weekly television program from New York.

Shelley said in remarks prepared for delivery in the House Monday that the society posed a

problem of whether it would be best to investigate it or ignore it.

The San Francisco Democrat said "extremist forces" of both left and right often had gained strength after attracting "alarmed interest and discussion." But he said the society should be subjected to "relentless public exposure" because of the tactics it uses.

Shelley said the Birch Society uses the same methods as "the enemy it claims to be combating: front organizations, pressure campaigns, an apparatus of intimidation — with the smear its hallmark and a crippling of the democratic process its outcome."

Keating also referred to the methods of the Birch Society.

It is completely contrary to our system for any organization to set itself up as an infallible political arbiter of what is correct and to smear all those who disagree with charges of being traitors or Communists," Keating said.

The senator said an investigation was further justified by what he called the society's attempts to influence legislation and talk by its leaders of forming a third party in 1964.

Keating said Congress should determine whether lobbying laws and the corrupt practices act should be applied to the society.

Keating said the society has a "potential income of over \$18 million a year" under its dues schedule and membership goal. "Yet it is alleged that the society makes no accounting of its funds to its membership," he said.

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Private Club/ Cancels 'Open' Birch Session

The Atlanta Athletic Club has canceled the scheduled use of its facilities for a meeting Friday night at which Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, is slated to speak, the club manager said Monday.

W. E. Harrison, the manager, said the facilities had been engaged in the name of an individual who is a member of the Athletic Club, but the engagement had been cancelled after the Birch meeting was described as "open."

"We cannot have our facilities used for 'open' meetings and retain our identity as a private club," Mr. Harrison said. "The John Birch Society meeting definitely will not be held here."

TERRY WHITMAN, Atlanta area coordinator for the Birch Society, could not be reached immediately for information on the change in plans.

He had said earlier Monday, however, that admission to the Welch address would be "by invitation only," though a \$1 fee would be charged. He was hoping for a turnout of 800.

Mr. Welch, a Belmont, Mass., businessman, founded and still heads the arch-conservative, anti-Communist society.

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Birch Backers--and Why

By MARGARET SHANNON

One of the most active speakers in the Atlanta area on the Communist danger as he sees it is Dr. Lane Mitchell, head of the ceramics department at Georgia Tech and a commander in the Naval Reserve.

In 1959, Dr. Mitchell went to the National War College for the Defense Strategy Seminar, an enterprise which started with a "bright idea" by Frank Barnett, research director for the Richardson Foundation, according to R. Randolph Richardson of Atlanta, whose family fortune set up the foundation.

The seminar lasted two weeks, climaxing with a speech by Adm. Arleigh Burke, chief of naval operations.

"Since then," says Dr. Mitchell, "I have rededicated my life to fighting communism. It is the most important thing a man can do—more important, even, than providing food and clothing for his own family, for if we do not conquer this evil foe, we will have no family to feed and clothe."

DR. MITCHELL took the ad-

miral's speech as a personal charge to him to go out and fight the Red menace. He has made over 200 speeches in the past two years on the subject. He said his religion has been revitalized.

"I have come to view this as a fight for the individuality and spirituality of man," he says.

When one sees what he believes to be Communist influences in so many things, as Dr. Mitchell does, the urge to speak out is strong, he says.

"I have tried to stay away from complete denunciation of individuals," he says, "but I am less circumspect in denouncing groups."

He says, for instance, that "the press in Atlanta is liberal" and that "liberals are helping America surrender our sovereignty."

He is an admirer of the arch-conservative, anti-Communist John Birch Society, although he says he doesn't belong. He does not see how anyone could take umbrage with the views of Robert Welch, the society's founder.

DR. MITCHELL is likely to use any occasion possible, including his Tech classes, for an anti-Communist lecture. A marketing researcher reports that he went to a business club recently expecting to hear a Mitchell talk on marketing and heard instead a Mitchell talk on communism.

The Georgia Tech faculty member says most of his more than 200 speeches have been made to groups that wanted to hear about the Communist menace. "I have not had any captive audiences, except you might say my students

in class or my Naval Reserve unit," he says.

Some of the talks have been to "plain people" and some to "intellectuals," he says. "Frankly I find the plain people more responsive and more awake," he says. "They are real patriots."

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AS AN ILLUSTRATION of his absorption in the subject, Dr. Mitchell related his experience in filling out his income tax:

"I was listing my contributions to various causes, all of them very worthy, and I got to thinking about the people running these charities.

"So I noted the boards of directors and there were so many liberals on them that I thought to myself, 'I just hope my money is going for these causes and not being used by these liberals for other purposes.'

"You see how hard it is to fight this thing. It's fine to help the (he named a type of charity), and if you try to tell people that Communist influences have infiltrated the (charity), you get accused of being against the (beneficiaries of the charity)."

DR. MITCHELL FEELS his religion revitalized in his anti-Communist fight. Some of the anti-Communist activities in the Atlanta area are religion-centered, as the local chapter of the Church League of America and the Voice of Liberty. The heads of both these groups here support the John Birch Society, the first as a member and the latter as an admirer.

Mrs. Martha Andrews, of 692 Sunnybrook Dr., Decatur, execu-

tive secretary of the Voice of Liberty, which she originated, puts out a quarterly publication devoted to "constitutional government and fundamental Christianity."

The Voice of Liberty has an advisory board, serving at Mrs. Andrews' invitation. Members are M. Virgil Davis, chairman; Mrs. W. R. DeBra, W. M. Goodson, J. C. Hazelton, Mrs. R. Vinton Reid and G. W. Pendleton.

She says her publication reaches all 50 states and three Canadian provinces and is supported by contributions. Some of its statements in recent issues covered a wide range of topics.

ON THE presidential election: "Khrushchev's man won by less than two votes per precinct. Among bloc votes for the pro-socialist was labor; Jewish about 9 to 1 according to one report; big-city Negro vote (exception Atlanta); and Catholic."

URBAN RENEWAL: "This knock-down-build-up program will cost taxpayers billions of dollars in a now almost-bankrupt economy, while an all-powerful, paternal, socialistic government assumes increasing control over personal lives, and news reports usually give only the promoters' side of the picture."

ON RACE relations: "Race relations' (alias for integration) is straight from the Communist platform, with the aim to create a one-world, classless society, with one race, the 'human' race; racial agitation divides the people, making them easier to conquer."

ON CHURCHES: "There are twice as many subversives in the field of religion than any other field; the nation is being sold out to Communists through the social gospel under the cloak of Christianity, and part of every nickel paid NCC (National Council of Churches) denominations goes to promote leftist causes."

ON THE federal government: "When the federal government says whom we must employ, to whom we must rent or sell, by whom we must live, and with whom our children must be educated — the rights of every American is in jeopardy; the South is not fighting the Negro, but communism, which is using the Negro to overthrow constitutional government."

Mrs. Andrews says her enterprise formerly was called the Voice of Freedom and some of her tracts still bear that name, but "I had to get rid of it because I found out there was a Communist-front outfit by that name."

She avoids using the label Communist. "A Communist is a dues-paying member, and it is virtually impossible for persons like myself to prove, and we can be sued if we call a person a Communist if he is not one," she said. "A freeter is one who serves the Communist cause without being a party member."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

Birch Ideas Bad As Those They Oppose

The Editors: The public statements of the spokesmen of the John Birch Society indicate that the aim of this group of self-styled "patriots" is the silencing of every American who disagrees with them, and their tactics for achieving this aim are those which are standard for any subversive group, including the infiltration of other groups for their own ends, the setting up of "front" organizations, and the slandering of their opponents.

It is easy to see that they do not consider freedom of speech to be necessary for democracy. In fact, they are quite willing to dispense with any part of the Bill of Rights which interferes with their witch hunt.

Since they have decided that the only way to preserve democracy from the dangers without, is to destroy it from within, they have become just as subversive as the groups which they oppose, and much more dangerous to America.

I personally am a conservative, and a Nixon Republican, who gets no pleasure but of calling names. But any organization which can brand Eisenhower and Dulles as communists has gone so far beyond the limits of common sense and common decency that it is no longer conservative, but Fascist, and it's time we called a spade a spade.

The job before this country now is to keep democracy on the road, and not to drive it off into the ditch on the right in order to avoid the swamp on the left.

ROBERT J. POWER.
Atlanta

Let Ax Cut Both Ways

The Editors: Recent wide publicity about the John Birch Society, a so-called conservative secret society, suddenly has set off a mad dash for the soap box.

There have been cries for a congressional investigation and all sorts of dark implications about the tactics embraced by this society in its avowed purpose to fight Communist infiltration in this country.

If the society poses any real danger to the kind of basic Americanism that all patriotic citizens need to protect, then certainly full exposure by investigation is decidedly in order.

But don't overlook the fact that many of those yelling loudest for a congressional investigation are the same ones who blow their tops over any suggestion that similar inquiries be made of suspected Red activity, or of left-wing radical groups that employ the same tactics.

Let's just be sure the ax cuts both ways.

I. C. Pharr.

Atlanta.

Articles Stir His Support for Birch

The Editors: Please tell us what you are trying to prove in Miss Shannon's articles.

Is it vile to be strongly pro-American and violently anti-Communist?

Today your reporter gives us this breathless piece of double talk, or something: "The John Birch Society, controversial anti-Communist organization, has won a welcome from (note this): industrious watchdogs of the public's patriotism in the Atlanta area." What a fine piece of gobbledegook.

Ask your Miss Shannon if she knows where I can get an application blank. I never was much of a "jiner" but I think this is one organization I'd like to belong to and work for.

TERRELL H. YON SR.
College Park.

From your reaction, it appears Miss Shannon's observation on winning a welcome is accurate and perceptive. The Editors.

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It's Policy Not to Tell

BIRCH WORD: SILENCE

By MARGARET SHANNON

Terry Whitman describes himself as a "volunteer coordinator" for the John Birch Society in the Atlanta area. He has been at it about a year and a half, he says.

Therefore if the society has any Atlanta chapters—and national headquarters says it has—they have come into being since Mr. Whitman entered the picture, because the society claimed no chapters in Georgia a year and four months ago.

ROBERT WELCH, the Belmont, Mass., businessman who founded the society, in a foreword to the second printing of his "Blue Book" under a Dec. 9, 1959, date, listed 16 states with working chapters. Georgia was not among them.

But Mr. Whitman, a clothing manufacturer's traveling representative, who resides at 311 Peachtree Hills Ave., NE, declines to say how many chapters and how many members the John Birch Society has in the Atlanta area.

It's society policy not to tell. As for members' activities in the Atlanta area, he was just about as uninformative.

HE DID SAY that Atlanta Birchers are not circulating any petitions for the impeachment of U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren.

"We have no concentration on anything," he said. "I couldn't give you anything specific. We just try to follow the bulletin."

Mr. Welch issues a monthly bulletin of information and instructions, with each issue including an agenda for the month.

THE FEBRUARY bulletin, for instance, said: "By far our major demand on your time and energy is still in support of the MOVEMENT TO IMPEACH EARL WARREN."

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Mr. Whitman said he was unaware that the John Birch Society was distributing a booklet about the Foreign Policy Association issued by an Atlanta American Legion post.

The Birch Society February bulletin reported:

"We have been mailing out to each new chapter a copy of 'The Truth About the Foreign Policy Association,' issued by Post No. 140 of the American Legion, 3905 Powers Ferry Rd., NW, Atlanta 5, Ga. It contains about 115 pages, 8 1/2 x 11, closely packed with devastating material on the Foreign Policy Association, its activities and its leaders. The retail cost is \$1 per copy, \$10 for 14 copies. We hope presently to be able to go back and send a copy to all of our present chapters that do not have one."

ACCORDING TO an article in the March issue of the Georgia Legionnaire, the booklet emerged from a file prepared by the Americanism Committee of the Waldo M. Slaton Post No. 140.

The same article says that a Fulton County grand jury presentment critical of the "Great Decisions" program of the Foreign Policy Association was based on the committee's file.

The article in the Georgia Legionnaire carries the byline of Lois I. Nichols and identifies her as researcher for the Waldo M. Slaton post's Americanism Committee.

R. RALPH NICHOLS, an insurance man, is also a researcher, concentrating on anti-Communist matters, but he says he doesn't "engage in any public activities" in the anti-Communist field.

He said he has what he describes as "a pretty good file of source materials," but that the Atlanta Public Library and the Emory University library both have superior source materials. He spoke particularly of Emory's collection of government publications.

Mr. Nichols said that he does the research "out of curiosity and love of country. I hate to see these people take it away."

He said he gets requests for research from many states and does research for the American Legion "here and all over."

THE SLATON POST'S booklet is one of several publications on various subjects recommended by the February bulletin of the Birch Society. One of the projects for the month: "Read at least one book on our approved list this month, and every month."

Mr. Whitman emphasized the voluntary nature of membership in the society. "We do not solicit membership per se," he said.

He said he became interested in the society when he "ran across the material through a friend and realized something's got to be done."

Mr. Whitman said he could not tell yet what effect, if any, recent publicity about the John Birch Society will have on membership.

Mr. Welsh reported in the fourth printing of the "Blue Book" that the society's growth in numbers had been far slower than expected, but its growth in strength, "especially in proportion to our numbers, has been far above our most hopeful expectations."

He said the society had refused to accept "just one chapter since the society was founded, and this was because of the extreme racist views of some of its prospective members."

"How little we go along with views of some of its prospective that we have two all-Negro chap-

ters, of which we are very proud, and several chapters in northern states with good citizens of both white and colored races who meet together," he added.

"We are bitterly opposed to forced integration, in schools or anywhere else, but on far sounder grounds than the 'racial superiority' arguments.

"It is because, according to the constitution, the federal government has absolutely nothing to do, legally, with public education; because every American, white or

black, should have the right to select his own associates for every enterprise and occasion; and because all of the trouble over integration — which is doing inestimable damage to both the black and white races — is Communist inspired, encouraged and implemented for Communist purposes."

THE ANTI-COMMUNIST endeavors of the Birch Society are only its most immediate aim, according to Mr. Welch. He says in the "Blue Book" that its great goal is: "Less government and more responsibility."

He climaxes a discussion of this goal by saying that "neither the form of government nor its qual-

ity is as important as its quantity."

"Let's dramatize this fact — or opinion — by bringing it closer home," he continues. "And your speaker would like to have it understood he does not condone dishonesty in the slightest degree. Yet I had rather have for America, and I am convinced America would be better off with, a government of three hundred thousand officials and agents, every single

one of them a thief, than a government of three million agents with every single one of them an honest, honorable public servant. For the first group would only steal from the American economic and political system; the second group would be bound in time to destroy it. The increasing quantity of government, in all nations, has constituted the greatest tragedy of the 20th century."

Correction: R. F. Randolph Richardson, chairman of Project alert in Atlanta, was quoted in Atlanta Journal story last week as saying he has known Robert Welch for some years. Mr. Richardson says he does not know Mr. Welch and his statement was that he has known of him for some years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

Journal Reader Likes 'Moderation'

The Editors: While not a member of the John Birch Society and all I know about it is what I read in the papers, I think The Journal and Margaret Shannon are to be commended for the enquiring and informative manner in which you have handled this subject. With so much of the press and its members rather violently "liberal" these days, it is rather comforting to an ordinary citizen to find moderation in so strong a voice and influence as The Journal. May it over "Cover Dixie like the dew."

WADE MURRAH.
Blairsville.

Birchers and Reds Both Extremists

The Editors: In regard to the John Birch Society, I can't help but believe that any organization which has as its leader a man who has accused great patriots like Dwight D. Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles of being members of the Communist underground must be composed of a collection of scumballs.

Furthermore, just being anti-Communist doesn't in itself make a person or organization worthy of commendation. Hitler and his Nazis were anti-Communist, but we certainly wouldn't want people of their ilk in control of our government.

I am as much opposed to communism as anyone. However, I am equally opposed to those who would like to set up a Nazi-style dictatorship of the right in this country. Sensible people must be constantly on the alert against extremists of the left and of the right who would like to deprive them of their freedom.

F. EUGENE DEKLE.
Atlanta.

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Eugene Patterson

Yes, the Method Does Matter

Now Atlanta is to have a visit from a man named Robert Welch. Examine him closely. He seeks to advance political conservatism by submerging it in anti-Communist hogwash and calling it patriotism. His judgment is incredible, his tactics are causing concern to the Justice Department, and his movement, the John Birch Society, is engaged in a destructive vigilante action under the wrapper of anti-communism. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has warned Americans to shun inept vigilante action or risk lending impetus to communism.

What does Robert Welch, who served for seven years on the board of the National Assn. of Manufacturers, believe? "My firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt," Welch wrote on Page 287 of a manuscript called "The Politician."

How does he react to criticism? When his ridiculous statement about Eisenhower began backfiring, Welch issued a ringing denial that he had ever called Ike "a card-carrying Communist."

And of course he hadn't called Ike "a card-carrying Communist." He had called him a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy," and since he couldn't deny that, he denied something else which he hadn't called Ike in the first place.

This is a tactic typical of the Birch movement. It holds the public intelligence in such low respect that it presumes to flimflam it. Welch's written instructions to members on how to ask loaded questions explains: "The question technique, when skillfully used in this way, is mean and dirty. But the Communists are after all meaner and dirtier."

Welch's vision of a mean and dirty America is unacceptable to those who believe the strength of freedom lies in its fairness and cleanliness. But Welch has his own ideas there, too. "Democracy," he has written, "is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud."

Presumably he was splitting the old hair and terming America a republic, not a democracy. But even the republican form of government, he wrote, while having many attractions under certain favorable conditions, "lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption."

Seemingly discontent with the American system, he formed the Birch group "to be a monolithic body" under "completely authoritative control" with members "subject to smoothly functioning direction from the top."

And who is at the top? "The men who join the John Birch Society," Welch wrote, "are doing so primarily because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership."

This, then, is the kind of man who put out the order to Birchists last September to "take over the PTAs," who instructs his followers, many of them reputable businessmen, to get films on communism shown in schools, to get speaking engagements at churches and civic clubs, and to call newspapers or individuals who oppose them Communist dupes.

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FBI-ATLANTA	

REPORT

NOVEMBER 12, 1965

General Information
On JBS Activities
Atlanta, Georgia

[] advises that the [] program that was supposed to have been set up for [] to have a number of speaking engagements in Negro churches here has been cancelled. Apparently, there seems to be a connection between a number of beatings that have taken place in the Negro community and the [] program. In any event, the word is that the Negroes who were ostensibly working to arrange for [] to speak at the churches have gone underground and the program is cancelled.

[] was talking to [] and [] who advised him that "Let Freedom Ring" had been cancelled out in Atlanta because of a law suit brought by the ADL. [] stated he pressed them more on this. As you will recall, [] advised that [] had agreed to have the "Let Freedom Ring" outlet at his office. [] said that apparently, because of a law suit brought by ADL, the anonymity of the sponsor is no longer to be kept secret by the telephone company, and they are having second thoughts about operating the station here.

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[] advises that much information has been received locally in the last two weeks - that the "Impeach Earl Warren" program will be the concentrated JBS program for the year of 1966.

[] indicates he was advised that the Dupont Company of Delaware is buying the defunct Atlanta Times and is going to resume publication.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-18-84 BY [] 60290 BCF/1007/PK

1. "The Life of John Birch", rec. from Newark 4/13/60.
Ref'd to Contributor 4-14-60 (ent. 4/14/60 HS)
2. "The Blue Book" of the John Birch Society, rec. from Newark 4/13/60 (ent. 4/14/60 HS)
Ref'd to Contributor 4-14-60
3. "Terrible 1313", rec. from Newark 4/13/60.
Ref'd to Contributor 4-14-60 (ent. 4/14/60 HS)
4. "Great Decisions 1960", rec. from Newark 4/13/60.
Ref'd to Contributor 4-14-60 (ent. 4/14/60 HS)
5. "The Dan Smoot Report", rec. from Newark 4/13/60.
Ref'd to Contributor 4-14-60 (ent. 4/14/60 HS)

6. Pamphlet concerning Communism.
ent. 4-14-60 HS

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7. Card mailed to S.A. [redacted] home. (Ent. 7-5-62 jlw)
8. Two Letters re. John Birch Society. (Ent. 7-5-62, jlw)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-04 BY 60290 BCE/KC/ST
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FBI-ATLANTA	

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

Tallahassee, Florida
June 4, 1962

b7C

Founder

ROBERT WELCH

The Council

N. E. ADAMSON, JR.
THOMAS J. ANDERSON
T. COLEMAN ANDREWS
SPRUILLE BRADEN
LAURENCE E. BUNKER
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STILLWELL J. CONNER
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FRED C. KOCH*
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J. NELSON SHEPHERD
JAMES SIMPSON, JR.†
ROBERT W. STODDARD*
CHARLES B. STONE, III
PAUL H. TALBERT

*Executive Committee

†Deceased

790289
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-17-04 BY [signature]

It has recently come to our attention that an individual is now working in the Atlanta area for the ostensible purpose of setting up a political coalition of all "patriotic" organizations. While the general purpose of this organization is to stop the integration movement, the manner in which this is being conducted is highly inflammatory. While the individuals involved may be completely sincere and innocent of any direct intention of inciting civil strife, the approach used seems to be designed to fan the resentment toward integration into a hatred of the negro to the point from which open violence and mob action could result from the slightest provocation.

This fits too closely into the pattern of action mentioned by Mr. Welch on page 29 of the Blue Book which reads:

"It has long been their (the communists) plan, gradually carried out over a long period with meticulous cunning, to stir up such bitterness between whites and blacks in the South that small flames of civil disorder would inevitably result. They could then fan and coalesce these little flames into one great conflagration of civil war, in time, if the need arose."

We are sure that our fine members would want no part in the promotion of such a program from either side, consequently we are sending you this letter to be read to your chapter (if you are a Chapter Leader) so that it will be less likely that any member will be deceived into supporting the program.

This action on our part is in accordance with our long standing policy to be sure that The John Birch Society membership and Chapter structure remains a force for creating less government, more individual responsibility, and a better world. To allow it to become a vehicle to promote hate for any race or religion would be contrary to our principles and purposes.

If there is any member who does not feel that he can, with clear conscience, go along with this policy, we do hereby respectfully request that he make this known to the home office in the form of his resignation.

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

Page 2.

Founder

ROBERT WELCH

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†Deceased

To make the Society's position explicitly clear, I call your attention to a footnote in the Blue Book:

"We have refused to accept just one chapter since the Society was founded, and this was because of the extreme racist views of some of its prospective members. How little we go along with such views is shown by the fact that we have two all-Negro Chapters, of which we are very proud, and several chapters in northern states with good citizens of both white and colored races who meet together. WE ARE BITTERLY OPPOSED TO FORCED INTEGRATION, IN SCHOOLS OR ANYWHERE ELSE, BUT ON FAR SOUNDER GROUNDS THAN THE "RACIAL SUPERIORITY" ARGUMENTS. IT IS BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO, LEGALLY, WITH PUBLIC EDUCATION: BECAUSE EVERY AMERICAN, WHITE OR BLACK, SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO SELECT HIS OWN ASSOCIATES FOR EVERY ENTERPRISE AND OCCASION; AND BECAUSE ALL OF THE TROUBLE OVER INTEGRATION -- WHICH IS DOING INESTIMABLE DAMAGE TO BOTH THE WHITE AND BLACK RACES -- IS COMMUNIST INSPIRED, ENCOURAGED, AND IMPLEMENTED FOR COMMUNIST PURPOSES."

Please accept our heart-felt thanks for all of your work in helping The John Birch Society become an ever stronger force to preserve for our children and theirs as much of this humane civilization as we possibly can.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



JHP, jr./vw

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THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

May 22, 1962

Founder

ROBERT B.

The Council

N. E. ADAMSON, JR.
THOMAS J. ANDERSON
T. COLEMAN ANDREWS
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CHARLES B. STONE, III
PAUL H. TALBERT

*Executive Committee
*Deceased

[Redacted]
Tallahassee, Florida

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Dear [Redacted]

This letter is to state as simply as we know how that we approve of the action you are taking with regard to a problem which has developed in the Atlanta area.

As you know, we have a fantastic job ahead in stopping the Communists. And in accomplishing this task, we must rely on the "level-headed" reasoning and actions of Americanists who will devote as much time as they possibly can to this end. In order to attain our long-range goals, we must stop the Communists.

We do not intend to let The John Birch Society become a vehicle for anything else but a force for creating less government, more responsibility and a better world. Those who would try to change this course that we have set have no place in the Society.

With good wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
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TNH:rc